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WHITE, BESSIE BRUCE.

A STORY OF THE CINCINNATI

UNION BETHEL

The Story
OF THE
Cincinnati Union Bethel

A STORY
of the
CINNATI UNION BETHEL

A Social Service Agency Since 1830

Recorded in 1952 by
BESSIE BRUCE WHITE

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This book is dedicated with gratitude and admiration to all the men and women who, for more than a century, have made the Bethel possible and to the splendid men who compose its present directorate.

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I hereby acknowledge my indebtedness for help in the preparation of this volume to the Fifth Third Union Trust Company for the free use of its fine library and especially to its librarian, Miss Marie Dickore, for her great interest; to Mr. Virginius Hall and the Historical Society of Cincinnati for valuable assistance; to the Public Library; to Mr. Guy S. Klegg, the historian of The Presbyterian Church in the United States in America, for his helpful cooperation, and to Mr. Clark Firestone for his gracious Foreword.

FOREWORD

In these pages Bessie Bruce White has told an absorbing, a stimulating, an almost incredible story, and one which — to me at least, and I surmise to many others — had been nearly unknown. The result is a Romance of the Ohio River and its Cincinnati Shores. Toiling almost obscurely, devoted men and women made history that hereafter — thanks to the zeal and laborious research of Mrs. White — will have an honored place in our libraries, on the shelves of families and in the admiration of the reader. Can anybody hereafter who essays to write the history of the Queen City, tell it as it was, in its lights and shadows, unless he has first read the story of Cincinnati's Union Bethel?

That story begins in 1830 on the river front and on boats out in the stream. In peak years the boats which passed numbered 8,000, and the crews that came ashore and looked around — for from one to five days while the boats were unloading — totalled 50,000 men. At first, and until 1838, the work done among them was in alliance with the Western Seaman's Friends Society with headquarters in Cleveland. Then the Union Bethel was organized, its object "to afford means of grace and moral improvement to boatmen and those residing in the river vicinity." Front Street, where it soon established itself, was given over to cheap taverns, saloons and gambling houses. For a while volunteers from churches used the public rooms of the boats as places of worship. In 1853 the

hull of an old steamboat was purchased, equipped with a commodious chapel, and given privilege of free mooring at the Public Landing. The boat was filled throughout the week as well as on Sundays (says our history) with men who were grateful for a place in which to loaf and read when off duty. Both Sunday and weekly religious exercises were held there.

In 1859 Union Bethel came completely ashore and occupied a Front Street building which had been a dime museum and a saloon. Its subsequent history finds it conducting the Newsboys Home on Longworth Street, occupying a rear building annex on Yeatman Street, and then establishing itself at its present home, 501-503-505 East Third Street, at the Anna Louise Inn, 300 Lytle Street and at Glen-Vere, 7320 Wooster Pike. The Inn, for working girls, is operated on a non-profit basis and is named after Anna Louise Semple, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Taft, lifelong friends of Union Bethel.

Varied through the years have been the activities of Union Bethel. It ran a lodging house which could accommodate 500 men and which provided baths at five cents, beds at ten cents. 38,404 lodgings were given the first year. Bethel managed a restaurant with five-and-ten cent meals. It looked out for newsboys and boot-blacks. It formed a cooperative association for downtown families who bought coal by the bucket or bushel. It established a summer camp for girls on the Little Miami. It conducted a summer school of music. It had its

own clinic. It housed victims of the great Chicago fire. It organized 75 clubs. For a while it led one of the largest Sunday Schools in the world.

These are but outline items in the narrative which follows. There the reader will find the names of devoted and distinguished citizens of whose unselfish labor he may not have been aware. Cincinnati Union Bethel, looking out on Lytle Park from its permanent home and dedicated to a continuous and fruitful service in its capacity as a Neighborhood Settlement, looks back now on more than a century wherein its endeavors have made Cincinnati a better and a greater city.

CLARK B. FIRESTONE

Herein is recorded the long and honorable history of the Cincinnati Union Bethel, an organization that, for more than one hundred and twenty two years, has continuously served the city, in an endeavor to make its neighborhood a better place in which to live and, by its activities, give the people of that neighborhood an opportunity for healthy living, ample recreation and a vision of a high civic, social and spiritual achievement that may be attained. Insofar as this has been accomplished, the total standard of living for the entire city has been raised. Men and women who have felt the influence of the Bethel over these years, scattered as they are all over the world, have attested to the validity of its usefulness.

The history of the Bethel runs concurrently with the history of the city, since the settlement which later grew into our beloved Cincinnati, antedates the Bethel by only forty-one years, or perhaps even less. The first settlers stepped ashore at the foot of Sycamore Street in 1789 and the Bethel began its activities in 1830. These hardy pioneers had made early provision for churches and schools in the good American way, realizing the importance of both these institutions for a growing country. Long before railroads were contemplated, when the river and canals were the chief means of transportation, these same upright and farsighted men saw the need for some form of religious and social activity for the men who poled barges

and scows up and down the waterways and who were in and out of Cincinnati in large numbers week after week. The river front afforded little in respect to decent living quarters for rivermen on shore and no attention was paid to their religious needs. Cheap taverns, saloons, and gambling houses were wide open, with a ready welcome, as long as the sailor had money in his pocket. Knowing this condition, a group of "kind hearts and gentle people" decided to do something about it. In 1830, when Andrew Jackson was President of the United States, some of the finest gentlemen of Cincinnati gave up their Sunday afternoons to visit the boats tied up at the wharfs along the river front, acquainting themselves with the sailors and their needs. They sought the cooperation of the boat captains and hoisted church flags over as many boats as possible on Sundays, indicating that religious service would be held there. They secured volunteer ministers and choirs to preach and sing. They themselves were present to distribute tracts and books and to give a friendly handshake to the sailors who came.

Presently these men saw the need of an organized group behind them, so they allied themselves with the Western Seaman's Friends Society, with headquarters in Cleveland. This Society operated in many river towns and on both coasts. It gladly cooperated with the Bethel, giving loose supervision and direction, but relying on the Cincinnati group to carry on

a program suited to local needs. In this manner the Bethel was considered the Cincinnati outlet for the Society and it was given a definite territory in which to operate. The Society declared, "This territory shall include Marietta on the Ohio River, running North along the Muskingum River to Zanesville, thence Westward through Columbus to Indianapolis, thence South to Jeffersonville, Indiana, and also the entire State of Kentucky, with all the cities through which this boundary passes."

At this time as there was no thought of railroads, the Society seemed to consider the rivers the final means of transportation and evidently expected the Bethel to navigate the river as a sort of floating mission. There is no record to show that the Bethel ever assumed responsibility for this large territory since the local field was broad and the need great enough to absorb all available money and effort. It has been estimated that as many as fifty thousand river men passed through Cincinnati annually and boats had to wait from one to five days to come up to the docks to unload. This connection with the Seaman's Society continued until 1838.

At this time the Bethel felt itself established firmly enough to continue its work independently. It had grown to such an extent that a local board was needed and also a resident executive who could see local needs and supervise growing activities. A decision was reached to find a permanent location somewhere near

the wharves and to rent a building where services could be held and which would provide a headquarters for sailors when in port.

This notice was found in an early Cincinnati directory, "A group of men, headed by the Rev. O. S. Powell, a Presbyterian minister, and some prominent laymen held a meeting in the hall of the Cincinnati College located at the northeast corner of Fourth and Walnut Sts., on December 11th, 1838, to organize an independent society to be known as the Cincinnati Boatmen's Bethel Society." The object of this Society was "to afford means of grace and moral improvement to boatmen and those residing in the river vicinity." As a result of this meeting a building was secured on Commercial Row, (long since vanished) at the North end of what was the L. & N. Bridge. This was a strategic position as a meeting place for sailors coming into the city. About a month elapsed before the first service was held. The Reverend O. S. Powell was the first Chaplain under the new organization and he retained that office until 1843. At a service in January, 1839, a Sunday School was organized to meet at 9:00 A.M., also two preaching services were inaugurated, one at 3:00 in the afternoon and another at 7:00 P.M. From the first service, the transient men came gladly and those who lived in Cincinnati became regular members and brought their families.

The following gentlemen composed the first Executive Board: Edward W. Neff, A. W. Bent-

ley, William Disney, R. G. Mitchell and Jacob Strader.

There are very scant records of the work done between 1830 and 1838 but there is valuable proof that the Bethel functioned regularly and effectively during these eight years. In The Cincinnati Christian Journal and Religious Intelligencer, (a newspaper published by the Presbyterian Church) under date of October 3, 1830, there is printed a full-page detailed statement of the work of the Bethel for the previous year. It was during this period that the association with the Western Seaman's Friends Society functioned, but since this organization is no longer in existence its records are not available for further information. This article bears the headline "Bethel Has Success," so the organization must have been at work prior to 1830 to "have had success" in 1830. According to this article the work was carried on by volunteers; was of a religious character; had no permanent building but used the public rooms of the boats as places for worship, through the kindness of the boats' captains.

There is also a copy of a notice of a Bethel meeting held on October 30th, 1830, which reads as follows: "A meeting of the Cincinnati Bethel Union will be holden this evening in the First Presbyterian Church. It is earnestly requested that friends of that Institution would attend as business of importance is to be transacted. This Society has strong claims upon the attention of

the religious public, both on account of its intrinsic importance and the signal success which has been granted to its efforts." This also bears out the fact that the Bethel was working in Cincinnati before 1830.

From the first record book in existence we learn that at the opening meeting in January, 1839, when the first Sunday School was organized, there were present sixteen scholars and six teachers; that the school was opened with prayer by Philip Hinkle; that it commenced its missionary efforts by inciting the zeal of the scholars with a promise to record on its minutes the names of those who brought the most children on the next Sunday. The record of the following week shows that John Ryland and John M. Jones each brought two pupils and that William Harrison also "brought two as far as the door but one ran off." From this small beginning, because of the devotion of men like Philip Hinkle, the Sunday School grew until in 1870 it numbered three thousand five hundred pupils and had eighty teachers. At one time it was the largest Sunday School in the world under one roof. The record of December 24, 1877, shows three thousand and eighteen pupils in attendance. Perhaps the imminence of Christmas influenced the attendance of that day, for we find that a free Christmas dinner was served on the next Sunday to three thousand two hundred and forty-five persons. However, the average attendance for that same year

was two thousand four hundred and two per Sunday. Great emphasis was placed on the children's work, for the Bethel believed, and still does, that its greatest opportunity for constructive effort was with the young people of the neighborhood.



To return to the period of 1838, Martin Van Buren was President of the United States; in that year Sam Houston had won Texas for the Union; Chicago was still a little village; there were three thousand miles of railroads in the entire United States. The great financial panic of 1837 had destroyed banks and business houses; thousands were out of employment. Horace Mann was campaigning for free education; ten hours was the accepted length of a working day; Michigan had just become a state; the population of Cincinnati had increased to 46,338; the first Supreme Court of Ohio was inaugurated; Cincinnati established a water supply for the city; Lane Seminary was headed by the renowned Lyman Beecher; a law had been passed by the Ohio Legislature enabling the city to establish a night school for "men over twelve years of age." A circulating library had been opened in 1835 at 4th and Walnut Sts. The city had endured three great calamities: a tremendous flood had reached an 80 ft. stage; a devastating fire had swept away most of the business area below Third St.; and the Asiatic Cholera had raged for thirteen months and had

claimed a thousand victims. However, all sorts of cultural ventures were under way. The astronomical observatory was dedicated by John Quincy Adams. In 1840 the Mercantile Library Association was formed; Cincinnati was the sixth city in the land; the finest bells in the United States were being built here and steamboats were constructed in the ship yards on Delta Ave. The city was coming of age.



The Bethel moved along with the times. Its first building had been on Commercial Row on the River front, but in 1840, the Society moved to a building on Front St. near Pike. This building was leased from William Miller for three years and nine months at an annual rental of \$300.00. Here all sorts of religious and cultural meetings were held for the benefit of the neighborhood. At the expiration of this lease, the Bethel returned to its former quarters on Commercial Row. The Reverend Powell remained as chaplain until 1843, having as helpers such men as Philip Hinkle, Joseph Herron, the Honorable Bellamy Storer, E. B. Reeder, Reverend J. P. Kilbreth, and many others.

From 1833, when Lane Seminary began its operations, the students and professors took a deep interest in the Bethel and contributed much valuable service and time. An extract from a diary of a young lady living on Vine St. says, "the students from the Seminary who helped with the work of the Bethel at night, remained

as guests of families living down town, since the road to Walnut Hills was often too muddy and too poorly lighted to be safe and anyhow there were no night conveyances." Perhaps the young ladies were glad of an excuse to entertain these socially-minded young clerics. One of the young students, Reverend R. H. Leonard, for many years afterwards an honored pastor in the city, became the Bethel chaplain in 1843 and continued till 1847. He left the city at that time to take up work with the Western Seaman's Friends Society, returning later to a Cincinnati pastorate.



John Tyler had become President of the United States in 1841 through the untimely death of William Henry Harrison; the admission of Florida and Texas to the Union gave us twenty-eight states; Charles Dickens made his memorable trip to the United States, visiting Cincinnati in 1842. He wrote that "Cincinnati is substantially and beautifully built with many elegant houses, the streets are thronged with prosperous people. The Public Landing is a fascinating place with as many as thirty boats going in and out daily or lying at the dock." He also notes that its free schools were attended by four thousand pupils.

Cincinnati had become the greatest pork packing center in the world. Its hams were famous all over the States. Quantities of pork products, especially lard, were sent to Cuba and France,

and Warren Stagg sent a dozen hams as a gift to Queen Victoria, seven thousand bushels of strawberries were raised annually along the Licking River. Cincinnati ranked as the fifth city in the United States, Henry E. Spencer was the mayor. Spring Grove Cemetery grounds were purchased in 1844.



Some time in the very early years of the Bethel, the Reverend Mr. Powell, pastor of the Third Presbyterian Church and the Chaplain at the Bethel at the time, made a moving plea for volunteer workers for the Bethel. Philip Hinkle was a member of that congregation and heard the plea. He became deeply interested and from that time, until the day of his death in 1880, he vigorously participated in the work, giving abundantly of his time and money. He was chosen the first Sunday School Superintendent and for the next forty years the Bethel was one of his vital interests. He was a great and good man, possessed of a stout heart, as evidenced by the fact that when his factory on Front Street burned to the ground on a Sunday morning in 1855, he went unperturbed to his own church in the morning and to the Bethel Sunday School in the afternoon, as was his usual custom. His friends rallied around and provided money enough to re-build the factory without any legal security for its repayment. This indicates their estimation of the character of the man. His heart and purse were open for

every movement that made for the civic and religious improvement of the city. At a memorial service held after his death, Reverend Thomas Lee said, "I doubt whether the Bethel would be in existence today had it not been for the devotion and energy of Philip Hinkle." In 1841, as the Bethel had grown rapidly, Mr. Hinkle felt the need of a helper, so he chose another great man to assist him in the Sunday School, the Honorable Bellamy Storer. He, too, was no figurehead Board member, but worked at Bethel affairs as industriously as at his own and was always to be found there on Sunday afternoons.

The written records are scanty from 1847, (when Reverend Mr. Leonard left) to 1853 but we do know that the work was carried on along the original lines, with Reverend H. H. Price in charge. We have a report written by Mr. Price in which he states that he was "greatly helped by church missionaries and clergymen in the city who assisted him and his local workers in the services on the boats."

He reported "small collections" and says "the work had to be sustained by generous private individuals." He also added that "Cincinnati affords one of the most interesting fields of labor to be found anywhere along the Ohio River, as there are more than thirty thousand sailors passing through Cincinnati annually." As we have stated before, some historians estimate that the number reached fifty thousand annu-

ally and that, in the peak years, there were as many as eight thousand boats, large and small, that touched our wharves. The River trade made Cincinnati a very important port until the end of the River era in the 1880's.

Mr. Price continued as Chaplain until 1853, having associated with him as Sunday School Superintendent, Reverend William Andrews, who afterwards became the Postmaster of Newport, Kentucky.

In 1853 Reverend W. W. Wright was elected Chaplain but remained only one year. By this time the Bethel was known up and down the River as a place where sailors and their families would be welcome and where they could find friends and companionship among folk of their own kind, also financial assistance when needed. For some time there had been a patient and persistent effort on the part of friends of the Bethel to build a permanent center with proper buildings, to meet the needs of the clientele they sought to serve. Under the administration of Mr. Wright, in 1853, a committee was formed consisting of Bellamy Storer, Philip Hinkle, John Cochnower, John Whetstone, Joseph Herron, General M. S. Wade, David Anderson, E. M. Gregory, William Wood, John DuBois, N. Sawyer, H. Van Bergen, Edgar Conklin, Robert Boal, A. Webb, J. H. White, J. B. Findlay, J. Forbes and Samuel Wiggins, to find a permanent building location. They conceived the idea that perhaps the men would be more

at home on a boat than on the land, so they bought the hull of an old steamboat from Captain C. G. Pearce for \$1,750.00 and a commodious chapel was built upon it, luxuriously furnished at a cost of \$3,555.00. The privilege of mooring it at the Public Landing without charge was secured from the city. This proved to be a happy choice and the boat was filled throughout the week, as well as on Sundays with men who were grateful for a place in which to loaf and read when off duty. Here the Sunday School met, also Sunday morning worship was held and Wednesday night prayer meetings. This was used until 1859.

In 1854 Mr. Langarl served as Chaplain for three months, but "because of his peculiar religious views" was asked to resign and Reverend S. D. Clayton, a Methodist minister, took his place and continued in charge until 1856, when he asked to be relieved in order to return to the regular ministry. In one of his annual reports he says, "One mother told me she had kept herself and four children on dry bread for a whole week, and only thirty-seven and a half cents worth of it at that. We took her children to our school and clothed them. I found on Front St. in the back part of an Irish whiskey shop, a little girl six years of age, nestled down with a pig and two dogs, trying to keep warm. We took her and her sister to our church school and clothed them and now we have placed them in decent rooms and found

the mother suitable employment." Early in its history the Bethel combined social service with its religious work. Rev. Clayton was succeeded by Reverend William Andrews, a well known Presbyterian clergyman, who had been his assistant. He served for three years.



In 1853 Franklin Pierce became the 14th President of the United States; the next year Commodore Perry opened up Japan to American trade; the California gold rush swept the country; Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin in 1852; the agitation over slavery was ready to burst into flames; Iowa and Wisconsin were in the Union and again there were an equal number of pro and anti-slavery states; Cincinnati had a population of 115,438 (51,000 German born); the first Ohio State Fair was held; the Miami and Whitewater canals were doing great business; the Burnet House was "acknowledged to be the most spacious, and its interior arrangement, the finest in the country." In 1850 Walnut Hills had been annexed. Horace Greeley wrote challengingly in the New York Tribune "How many Californias Could Equal the Worth of the Ohio Valley?" Cincinnati now had police on duty day and night. In 1856 Alphonso Taft and Thomas Spooner organized the Cincinnati unit of the Republican party; The Literary Club was organized; the mail left for New York on the fifth and twentieth of the month; James Mur-

dock played Richard III in Pike's Opera House, "doors open at 6:30, curtain at 7 o'clock sharp"; Fifth Street was a fashionable residential locality.

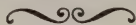


In the fall of 1859, Reverend S. D. Clayton returned to the Bethel to direct its work. Under his management, the Floating Bethel was sold and the work transferred to a building on Front Street. We quote from the Presbyterian dated December 1st, 1859.

"Last Sabbath afternoon, the new Bethel Chapel, No. 31, between Broadway and Sycamore, on the Public Landing, was opened and dedicated. The rooms of the Society were completely crowded with visitors, who further on in the evening testified by their works, that it was not curiosity alone which drew them to attendance upon the exercises. After the preliminary exercises of singing, Scripture reading and prayer, the Reverend Kingston Goddard preached a sermon, especially for the occasion. Reverend E. W. Sehon, of Tennessee, spoke next, urging upon the congregation to raise the sum of five hundred dollars to pay off the debt incurred by the removal of the floating chapel to this room. He proposed to raise the amount by subscription of \$25.00 by twenty persons, and named himself as one to give. His call was responded to by sev-

eral gentlemen present, and the amount was raised on the spot."

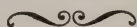
The newly acquired building had formerly been a Dime Museum and a saloon, a rather unusual setting for a religious enterprise. The work progressed rapidly and grew in numbers and influence. The finest men and women in the city were its supporters. Mr. Benjamin Frankland, who was connected with the Western Seaman's Friends Society, had been interested in the Bethel from the beginning and when, in 1861, the Reverend Mr. Clayton decided to return to the ministry, Mr. Frankland was appointed to succeed him. He was a Quaker, one of the three founders of that church in Cincinnati, a man of great energy and purpose; and he set to work to convert the Bethel building into an attractive meeting place. He renewed the interest of Lane Seminary in the work and enlisted many new and young workers to take an active part in the program he had in mind. He encouraged the river captains not only to invite their men to come to the services, but to come with them. The Bethel grew in the goodwill and interest of the community. The Sunday School gained in numbers and the large children's choir attracted many groups of visitors. It became popular for Cincinnatians to take out-of-town visitors to see the Bethel. In 1863 the Sunday School had one thousand three hundred and eighty-five members.



In 1856 the Republican Party had its first presidential candidate, however, James Buchanan, a Democrat from Pennsylvania, became the Fifteenth President. One event after another now arrayed the South and North against each other. The Dred Scott decision had been handed down and the Missouri Compromise declared unconstitutional; the John Brown raids added fuel to the flames; Lincoln spoke in Cincinnati from the balcony of Mr. Kinsey's house near Market Square. South Carolina passed a secession ordinance in 1860. Fort Sumter was fired on April 13th, 1861. Cincinnati felt all this pressure and was sharply divided in its sympathies. Salmon P. Chase and Levi Coffin led the anti-slavery forces.

The city had thrilled to the birdlike voice of Jenny Lind; Pike's Opera House was making cultural history; Emerson lectured here before crowded houses; the Prince of Wales was a guest in the Bowler home. On the 14th day of September, 1859, the first street-car, drawn by four beautiful gray horses went clattering over the streets, carrying the Mayor, City Council and press (it was lighted by oil lamps and had a blanket of straw on the floor for warmth). There was one train per day to St. Louis; busses made two daily trips to Avondale, fare fifteen cents and four daily trips to College Hill, fare twenty-five cents; mail for California left the second and seventeenth of the month; the city installed street lights; streets were cleaned twice

a month and garbage collection began. Long-view was completed in 1860.



In 1860 the Bethel Ladies Aid Society was formed and continued active until 1893. A report of 1866 gives the purpose of the Society. "The object of this Society is to relieve hundreds of poor children who attend the Sunday School, that by giving material aid through the physical frame, access may be gained to the soul." This group of outstanding women first met in the Sixth Street Methodist Church to make new garments for the children, but soon such heavy demands were made upon them, that they were unable to make enough garments, consequently they gave yard material to be made up at home by the mothers. They personally visited the homes of the children they helped and were really missionary visitors, giving advice to the parents and urging them to attend the services at the Bethel. Up to the time they issued their first report in 1866, they had distributed two thousand and forty-nine yards of material. At first they were an independent group, but soon consolidated with the Bethel organization. Their report of 1865 goes on to say "charities of a patriotic nature have almost entirely engrossed the attention of benevolent ladies for the past four years." This refers to contributions made to the Civil War needs. (General Lee had surrendered April 9, 1865.) Mrs. Eli Johnson was President of the

Society, Mrs. William H. Malone, Vice-President, Miss Mary Haynes, Secretary and Mrs. M. M. White, Treasurer. The names of Mrs. Morris M. White and her fine husband appear constantly in the annals of the organization as giving their devoted service and financial support.

The report of 1866, the first printed one in our possession, states that a meeting to incorporate the Bethel under the laws of Ohio, was held February 23rd, 1865, and the following men were elected to serve as a Board of Directors: Philip Hinkle, President; John Gates, Vice-President; M. M. White, Treasurer; Benjamin Frankland, Secretary; W. W. Scarborough, William J. Breed, Matthew Addy, Doctor William H. Taylor, Eli Johnson, John S. Perkins, Doctor Jonathon Taft, Ira Haynes, S. S. Davis, M. B. Hagans. Reverend Thomas Lee was the first general financial agent and missionary.

This meeting was held in the home of Eli Johnson, 340 West Seventh Street and, for the first time, the Society was legally called the Cincinnati Union Bethel, "on a basis of a union for all Christian denominations." A very important provision, enacted at that meeting, has never been cancelled: "No debt shall ever be contracted by the Board which will encumber the property of the Corporation." Articles of association were adopted, the requisite forms of law complied with and the Bethel became a Cincinnati institution incorporated under the laws

of the State. The work of the association was defined as follows: "to provide for the temporal and spiritual welfare of rivermen and their families and all others who may be unreached by regular church organizations; also, to gather in and furnish religious instruction and material aid to the poor and neglected children of Cincinnati and vicinity and to make such provision as may be deemed best for their social elevation. Also to provide homes and employment for the destitute." The Board continued the services of Mr. Frankland as Chaplain and General Superintendent.

Reverend Thomas Lee, a Methodist minister who for some time had taken an active part in the Bethel work and acted as Chaplain, was asked to conduct one service each Sunday at the Marine Hospital Chapel. He reported that "the regular and systematic visitation of boats lying at anchor or tied up at the docks was being carried on and that an average of twelve were visited each Sunday, where an invitation to attend Bethel services was extended and that 1,250 tracts had been given out"; also that "families on both sides of the River were visited and advice and material help given, and a large amount of good reading distributed." In this year the average Sunday School attendance reached two thousand. The first Annual Meeting was held in Mozart Hall at "7½ P.M. in the year 1866."

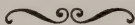
A free Reading Room and Library had been

one of the features of the Floating Bethel, but for some reason had been abandoned when the Society moved into the Museum Building; so in this year, 1866, the Y.M.C.A. offered to re-open the Library and to make all the necessary renovations and changes. A Temperance Coffee Bar was opened in connection with the Library, where coffee, soup, pie, bread and crackers were sold at a nominal cost. This was under the direction of Mr. Leonard Worcester, who also was the music director for the Bethel Church and Sunday School meetings. In Mr. Frankland's report for this year he points out a new need. He says, "Already we have had to shelter for the night, men, women and children, and we directly appeal to the public to give us the means to establish a dormitory where strangers, without a place to sleep, except the station house, can be accommodated with a comfortable bed at a moderate price." He also says that "the old Front Street Museum is not a fit place to carry on our work and is likely to be condemned any day." The war, and the consequent uncertainty of business, had prevented the board from making a plea for funds for a new and permanent building, but now a decision was reached to set in motion such a drive. There was an accumulation of \$10,000.00 on hand that had been contributed from time to time for that purpose.



In 1865 Lincoln was re-elected only to be

shot down by an assassin's hand on Good Friday. Vice-President Andrew Johnson became the seventeenth President; The Atlantic Cable was completed in 1867; the Ku Klux Klan movement was an answer to Congressional reconstruction; the United States purchased Alaska from Russia for \$720,000.00 in 1867. In Cincinnati, the Workhouse was built, costing half a million dollars; work on the Suspension Bridge was being rushed in order to open it for traffic on January 1st, 1867; Wesleyan Female College opened. There was agitation for a baseball team and in 1867 Dr. John Draper organized a baseball nine with the name Cincinnati Juniors and the well-known red uniform adopted. 1868 saw a Board of Trade established; McMicken University, later to become our great University of Cincinnati, opened its doors in 1869. The Cincinnati Hospital, costing one million dollars, was opened in the same year, the population of the city reached 230,000; according to George E. Stevens "Cincinnati was the largest and wealthiest inland city in the United States" (he calls it "the Paris of America" and Third Street the "Wall Street of the West"). The whole country was suffering from the aftermath of the war and Cincinnati did not escape its effects.



The News Boys Home, situated on Longworth Street, was offered to the Bethel and on May 9th, 1867, the transfer was completed.

In return the Bethel obligated itself to carry on a program of housing and feeding homeless newsboys and bootblacks. The property was sold in the same year for \$6,750.00 and the money added to the Bethel Building Fund that was slowly accumulating. Rooms were set aside in the building then occupied for the use of newsboys. In March Mr. Frankland, Chairman of the Property Committee, reported that a parcel of ground 41 x 166 feet on Front Street and extending back to Yeatman Street, owned by F. Bodman, and an adjoining piece 24 x 166 feet running back to Yeatman Street, owned by J. L. Rogers, were offered for sale at \$250.00 per front foot. After much consideration, it was decided to purchase these properties. At the same meeting, Mr. Frankland announced a gift to the building fund of a raft of logs from Corwin and Baum. The logs were sold and the receipts placed in the fund.

Another feature was added to the work through the efforts of the Ladies Aid Society, namely, a Mothers' Sewing School, meeting each Wednesday in the Bethel building. This was conducted with the volunteer help of Mrs. John Gates, President; Mrs. W. F. Church, Vice-President; Mrs. J. W. Canfield, Secretary and Miss Molly Sibley, Treasurer. There were eighty members. Mrs. Canfield reports that "while the mothers were sewing, interesting and profitable selections from books and magazines were read and practical advice given in mat-

ters of domestic economy." She also reported 2,782 pieces of clothing given away, consisting of new shoes, hoods, shawls, comforts and shirts; also 6,053 yards of new material.

Steps were now taken to establish a regularly organized church, with a pastor elected by the Board of Directors, to take the place of the Chaplain; consequently in March, 1867, the Reverend Benjamin Frankland was made the first pastor. The following year Mr. Frankland resigned to take a prominent position with the Western Seaman's Friends Society; however, this did not become effective until January, 1869, so he remained with the Bethel until that time.

On the 8th day of April, 1869, Reverend Thomas Lee who had been connected with the Bethel for four years and who had been acting as General Superintendent and pastor for several months after the resignation of Mr. Frankland, was elected Superintendent. His election inaugurated a long period of increased usefulness and effective management, for he remained Superintendent until his death in March, 1891. His service extended over a period of twenty-six active years. He was a great leader and made the Bethel a tremendously useful institution, known all over the United States. Before his connection with the Bethel he had been successively the financial agent for Ohio Wesleyan University, manager of the Methodist Book Depository, publisher of the Christian Advocate and a preacher of great

power. In his twenty-six years at the Bethel he advanced the institution to the rank of one of the largest missions in the world, with a church of seven hundred members, a Sunday School with an average attendance of eighteen hundred, a fine building and an endowment of over \$100,000.00. A paragraph from a memorial sent to his family at the time of his death says, "He served His Master with a zeal, a courage, a hope and a faith that never failed, he had a tenderness towards his fellows that won his way into their hearts and endeared him to the thousands to whom he ministered. He was a prudent manager, a safe counselor, and brought to his work intelligent powers of the highest order." This was signed by L. E. Stevens, President of the Board and Wm. F. Boyd, Secretary.

In 1869, the determination to erect a building suitable for the purposes and activities of the Bethel was still uppermost in the mind of the Board. At the time that Reverend Mr. Lee was elected Superintendent, plans for such a building had already been drawn. The minutes of the Board meeting of April, 1869, state that \$300.00 had been paid to Walter & Stewart, architects, on "account of plans for the Bethel building." It would need the cooperation of all who were interested to raise the money, so the Board directed the Property Committee, consisting of Philip Hinkle, John Gates, Eli Johnson, Matthew Addy and John S. Perkins, to request the Ladies Society to unite with them in the under-

taking. The officers of the Ladies Society were Mrs. Wm. H. Malone, President; Mrs. M. M. White, Vice-President, and Mrs. James N. Canfield, Secretary and Treasurer. It was decided to give a huge fair in Pike's Opera House and elaborate plans were made. The fair opened in December, 1869, and lasted for five highly successful days. To show what a variety of merchandise was offered for sale and how extensive was the solicitation, below are listed some of the articles contributed:

John Mitchell	Furniture
J. B. & T. Gibson	Pumps
Coffin Shays & Co.....	English terrier & dog house
Mondon & Otte	Carpet
Fred Dallas	Stone China
D. A. Mitchell	Tobacco
A. J. Clark	Dressing Robes
Nalers & Barratt	Woodenware
S. Wilson	Opera Coat
DeVow & Co.	Millinery
N. E. Childs.....	Cooking Stove
Cleines & Oskamp	Silverware
N. H. Clarke	Flute
Master Horace Taft	Pony
Thompson, Goodrich & Co.	Furs
R. Clarke & Co.	2 Chromos
Velocipede Club	Velocipede
Henry Kessler	8 sides leather
Goodhue & Secrist	Logcabin
Leonard Seaman	Cigars
Lenis Wald & Co.	Albums

John BoakeWheelbarrow
 Whipps, O'Connel Co.Boots

A few of the committees were:

Art GalleryMrs. C. R. Moody
 JewelryMrs. Jas. Frazier
 Books & Stationery.....Mrs. J. L. Whetstone
 House FurnishingsMrs. L. E. Stevens
 Evening Entertainment.....John Hancock
 DecorationsGazzan Gano
 Hotels (solicited for eatables).....A. G. Coore
 MerchandiseGeo. W. McAlpin
 Yankee KitchenMrs. G. Y. Rods
 Refreshments Table.....Mrs. Geo. Wilshires
 ConfectioneryMrs. J. L. Ruffin
 FlowersMrs. A. Rooz
 FurnitureJohn Gates
 MusicD. H. Baldwin
 FruitT. H. Yeatman
 ChemicalsW. J. Gordon
 HallC. C. Reakirt

All these chairmen enlisted many to help serve with them. Nothing was overlooked and no effort was too great in order to make it a huge success. The Committee meetings were held in the office of Dr. Jonathon Taft. It was a great community effort to raise money for what the city deemed a necessary and valued enterprise. Instead of five days, as originally planned, the Fair extended over two weeks and netted more than \$30,000.00.

The Annual Report of 1870, covering the work of the previous year, states that "the

Bethel Board has purchased a lot on Front Street between Sycamore and Broadway and running back 200 feet to Yeatman Street for the sum of \$55,000.00." This appears to include the old Museum building in which the Bethel had been operating. The stone work for the foundation of the new building was laid in May, 1869, and the building dedicated March 7, 1870. The report concludes by saying that \$36,333.50 has been paid on the new building, the major part of this coming from the Fair, but we still have a balance due on the entire project of \$10,000.00 and we hope that friends of the institution will come forward at an early date to help complete this grand undertaking."

This building fronted on Yeatman Street but the free reading room and library, the Newsboys Home, the room for the distribution of clothing to the needy, a dining room where inexpensive meals were served, and a few rooms for lodgers were still maintained in the Museum building facing on Front Street even after the new building on Yeatman Street was completed. After the new building could be used for religious services, the old chapel in the front building was partitioned off into small sleeping rooms to be rented to transient rivermen. Two bathrooms were installed and "a bid of \$20.00 was taken for tapping the sewer and carrying the pipes into the building."

On Feb. 1, 1871, a disastrous fire completely destroyed this old building. Mr. Lee, in his

April report for the next year says, "this has made it the imperative duty of the Board to appeal to the benevolent public for the means to erect a new building on the site of the one destroyed. In this front building we could have ample accommodations for the Boatman's Home, the Newsboys Home, the cheap dining room, rooms for lodgers and a temporary shelter for destitute strangers." The Board of Directors at this time were John Gates, President; C. G. Gould, Vice-President; Jonathon Taft, Secretary; L. E. Stevens, Treasurer; Philip Hinkle, G. H. Gibson, M. M. White, George Tait, Louis Ballauf, A. C. Bullock and George Burton. As this was the year of the great Chicago fire, some of the Board felt that inasmuch as Cincinnati had contributed so liberally to that relief fund a Bethel campaign for a new building would be very difficult. A quotation from the Daily Gazette, Oct. 19, 1871, shows the part the Bethel had taken for aid to the sufferers from that fire.

CHICAGO SUFFERERS AT THE BETHEL

"Since last Friday there have been provided for, in food and lodging, daily, at the Cincinnati Union Bethel on Front Street, from fifty to sixty persons from Chicago, who have been sufferers from the recent fire. These, under the arrangement with the appropriate aid committee of this city, are provided with food and lodging until they can procure employment. Fully one

hundred and fifty free meals have been furnished daily under the direction of Superintendent Lee, who has been laboring day and night to meet the extraordinary demand made upon this admirable institution in the present emergency. Temporary sleeping accommodations have been provided in the old part of the building, and the lower floors of the new building on Yeatman Street, are now being prepared for an increase in numbers. Beds are being placed there, and increased facilities for preparing food are being provided. When completed there will be accommodations for three hundred persons.

“The old Cincinnati Union Bethel in the emergency has proved a Godsend. Its value — being always ready to feed and shelter and clothe the hungry and houseless and the perishing — has received new demonstration. It is to be regretted, however, that it was not provided with all the convenience for such beneficence. The old part of the edifice, which long ago should have been supplanted by a new structure with ample facilities for carrying on this benevolent work, to which the institution is dedicated, stands there in its ruins, charred timbers and debris yet reminding the visitor of the fire which came well nigh burying the hopes of the staunchest friends of this work. They are there, as the con-

sumer left them, a memorial of the coldness of heart which will let these faithful workers for humanity toil on with the slenderest means. Happy will it be, if the present necessity shall move our people to give the society such a building as the good work demands."

The ground floor of the new chapel was used as a kitchen, a large living room as a men's dormitory, and another room for sleeping quarters for women. This appeal from the paper, and the exhibition of the readiness of the Bethel to help in a great emergency, stirred the hearts of the generous men and women, so that contributions began to flow in. The report of 1874 has this notation "paid to G. F. Nieber \$41,233.94 in full of building contract on the Bethel Front Street building."

In May, 1872, the following committee was appointed to solicit funds for the much needed and talked about new building: Philip Hinkle, M. M. White, A. D. Bullock, John Gates, and C. H. Gould. Since the Fair of 1869 had been so successful, it was decided at the September Board meeting to give another. Mr. Nicholas Longworth was made General Chairman and the date for the Fair was set early in the next year. It too, was tremendously successful, the two fairs netted more than \$72,000.00. When all the proceeds from the Fair were in, it was found that the fund was still \$16,000.00 short of the needed amount so that Mr. Hinkle

moved "that an appeal be made to the City Council for the amount." It is not known what action the Council took. The Franklin Bank was the depository for these funds. The Board at this time consisted of John Gates, President; Philip Hinkle, Vice-President; C. R. Lewis, Treasurer; Dr. Jonathon Taft, Secretary; L. E. Stevens, H. J. Davis, A. Erkenbrecker, W. B. Moores, M. M. White, C. H. Gould and A. L. Frazer.

The building on Front Street now housed all the activities of the Bethel except the huge Sunday School and the church services, which took place in the rear building on Yeatman Street. This large auditorium seventy-five feet by eighty-six feet could house 4,500 people. It had a wide balcony running around three sides, with small class rooms on the first floor. The platform was large and could easily accommodate the children's choir which numbered one hundred. The ceiling was forty feet high.

In Mr. Lee's report of 1872 he says "The Sunday School is in fine shape with 2,261 in attendance on the 17th of December; the church with a membership of two hundred and forty has two services on Sunday; there are twenty-five volunteers doing home visitation; George H. Gibson visits the steamboats every Sunday to extend an invitation to the men to take advantage of the activities the Bethel offers, while Wm. H. Boyce visits the boats through the week on the same errand; the newsboys and boot-

blacks are charged ten cents per meal; the Ladies Society is extremely active in the distribution of clothing and shoes. For five and one-half months the Bethel was the temporary home for sufferers from the Chicago fire, 725 persons were given food and shelter, besides much clothing."

The year 1873 was one of continued progress. No new activities were added but the old ones were developed and improved by the enlarged facilities offered by the new building. The waterfront was still the focal point for the business of the city.



Ulysses S. Grant was President of the United States, 1869-1877; the Union Pacific was opened for traffic; the Tweed Ring held New York in its paralyzing grasp; Charles Francis Adams advocated Civil Service Reform; railroads were reaching out everywhere; there was great political corruption and wild national spending which ended in financial panic; Memorial Day was observed for the first time. By 1870 the population of Cincinnati was 216,239; the first paid baseball team, the Red Stockings, were bringing the city fame; Cincinnati was agitated by the proposal to build and own a railroad, the first train to Chattanooga ran in 1870; the Symphony Orchestra was organized; the Public Library bought the half-finished Handy Opera House; Price Hill was annexed; the first May Festival was given in 1873; the lovely Tyler-Davidson Foun-

tain was unveiled; Burnet Woods became a public park; Music Hall, the gift of Reuben Springer, was opened; the inclines on Mt. Adams and Price Hill were operating; a new Federal Building was under construction; coal sold for twenty cents per bushel; the Suspension Bridge was completed in 1877 at a cost of two million dollars, it was the longest single span in the world.



In the year 1874, on May 9th, a very significant gift was presented to the Union Bethel by Mr. David Sinton; without this great gift the Bethel could not have survived the lean years. Mr. Sinton followed intimately the work of the Bethel. He knew its directors as personal friends. He asked the Board to meet him in his office to hear a communication. The following is a quotation from the minutes of that date:

“The Board of Directors of the Bethel met May 9 at 12:00 o’clock in the office of Mr. Sinton, 25 W. 3rd Street, at his request. Present were John Gates, Philip Hinkle, R. M. White, M. M. White, A. D. Bullock, Geo. Tait, L. Balluf, Geo. Gibson, L. E. Stevens, C. W. Gould, Dr. Jonathon Taft, Thos. Lee and Mr. Sinton. After a few explanatory words Mr. Sinton read the following paper.

“CIN., May 9, 1874. To the Board of Directors of the Cincinnati Union Bethel. Gentlemen: I hand you herewith ninety City of Cincinnati Municipal 7% bonds, dated July 1st, 1872 and

payable on the first day of July and January of each year, also twenty Toledo Depot first Mortgage 7% bonds dated March 1st, 1861, and payable on the first of March, 1881, with full interest coupons attached payable September 1st and March 1st in each year, amounting to an aggregate to \$100,000.00. I give these bonds to the Cincinnati Union Bethel to be held as a permanent fund or endowment to aid in promoting its charitable and benevolent objects, and purposes set forth in its certificate of incorporation; and I desire that the principal of this fund represented by the face of these bonds shall be kept forever intact and only the interest and income therefrom, as the same shall accrue, shall be expended for the current uses, purposes and objects of the Bethel. I do not wish any part of said interest or income to be applied to the payment of existing indebtedness of your association. As the principal of these bonds or any part of them is paid, I desire that the same may be judiciously re-invested in safe and paying securities or other productive property, as the Directors of the Bethel for the time being may decide and that the same be kept constantly invested so as to produce a safe and reasonable income. Having perfect confidence in the present management of the association and sincerely hoping that in the coming years, able, honest, and faithful successors to the positions you now fill may never be wanting to perpetuate the work so well begun, I shall with this gift

make no further conditions but subscribe myself very respectfully your obedient servant.

David Sinton."

At the close of the reading Mr. Lee led in prayer. Mr. Sinton then passed the bonds mentioned to the President of the Board, Mr. John Gates. Upon motion of Mr. Bullock a committee of the board was appointed to draft a resolution of thanks to Mr. Sinton for his unsolicited princely gift.

It must have been a tremendous inspiration to those men who had campaigned so faithfully for funds, given two great fairs, worked so unceasingly in the conduct of Bethel affairs, to know that this solid and substantial financial background would give assurance of continued usefulness for the organization they so unselfishly loved. Many years have passed since that day and thousands unknown to Mr. Sinton have profited and been blessed by his generosity.

This gift has meant permanence and stability to the Bethel, just as he desired it should.

By the year 1876, the great Sunday School numbered over five thousand pupils and the undenominational church had a membership of over eight hundred. In this same year Mesdames White, Shipley, Breed, Reakirt, and Wentworth with "many other select ladies" conducted a school of domestic life and manners for the young ladies attending the Bethel. Such a school might not be out of place today.

Sometime in 1874, when the new building was

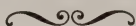
opened, a Merchant's dining room was operated. This was not a part of the benevolent work of the Bethel, but the proceeds from it were contributed to the People's dining room, where meals were served at cost. This restaurant brought to the Bethel many influential merchants and business men who became interested in its other departments.

A mission band of men was organized, consisting of Messrs. James Kyle, J. H. Roper, John B. Gibson, W. S. Wells, F. B. Thompson, George H. Gibson and L. H. Blakemore, who attended to home visitation and to tract distribution. They in turn, secured many friends to help in this service.



The year 1876 was marked by a great Centennial Exposition held in Philadelphia, where Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his new invention that enabled men to talk over a wire; household electric lights were shown. Custer's last stand had shocked the country when he and 276 cavalrymen were massacred by the Sioux Indians in Montana. Rutherford B. Hayes was elected the 19th President of the United States; 185 electoral votes for him and 185 for Samuel J. Tilden; Colorado was admitted to the Union. The '70's were filled with cultural progress for Cincinnati. The Historical and Philosophical Society received a sufficient endowment to make it permanent. Great fortunes had been made during the war so now many citizens were tak-

ing vital interest in music and all the arts. A large Industrial Exhibit was held in 1877 that stimulated both business and culture; the Zoological organization was completed through the efforts of Andrew Erkenbrecker; the Grand Hotel and the Grand Opera House were built; the Rookwood pottery was opened; a monument to William Woodward was unveiled; the Chamber of Commerce building was erected; the Eden Park Reservoir was completed; the new Emery Arcade was a great novelty in architecture; Ivory Soap floated for the first time. Doctor Charles F. Goss says "the '70's were the most fascinating decade in our history."



In his annual report for 1877, Mr. Lee says: "The past year has been, in many respects, the most remarkable in our history. The hard times have greatly increased the number of applicants for relief and have also increased the Sunday School attendance; the total attendance for the last six months reach 60,000, an average per Sunday of 2,402. It must be borne in mind that our work is religious although we have an extensive benevolent service." The Ladies Society distributed \$3,600.00 worth of yard goods and clothing; 5,576 free meals were served and 5,065 free lodgings given. Board and room was furnished to men at a sliding scale from \$2.50 to \$6.00 per week.

By the next year, 1878, the Bethel had accumulated a debt largely due to unexpected costs

on the new building and unpaid pledges. Mr. Sinton's interest in the Bethel had not flagged after his great gift in 1874. He had kept in close touch with the work. When he learned that the building and furnishings cost considerable more than the original estimate and that the debt amounted to \$14,000.00, he generously offered to give \$10,000.00 if the remainder could be raised within a reasonable time. It was raised in January of 1878 and a letter sent to Mr. Sinton in which the Board said "We hereby pledge ourselves to rigidly enforce the 6th article of our constitution which strictly prohibits us from contracting debts which would encumber the property of the organization." Among the donors to the fund were Philip Hinkle, A. B. Bullock, W. W. Scarborough, F. T. White, Wm. Resor, G. H. Gibson, M. M. White, Jonathon Taft, A. H. Pounsford, E. H. Pendleton, M. Werk, and many other loyal friends.

In his report of March 9, 1878, Mr. Lee, the superintendent, says: "The work was never in as prosperous condition as now, the seamen are better reached than ever before." He also asks "the Directors to be present at the Annual Meeting to be held on the last Sabbath of March to take charge of the congregation and take up the collection." He reported that he had contracted for supplies for the restaurant as follows, bread three cents per pound delivered, best quality of meats nine cents per pound, milk

fifteen cents per gallon. These figures are interesting in light of present day prices. At this meeting the Board's approval was sought for proposed passenger rails to be laid between existing switch tracks and the Bethel's property on Front Street. Permission was denied.

In February, the directors of Spring Grove Cemetery presented the Bethel with a lot for two hundred and fifty graves, the estimated value then was \$5,400.00. There have been seventy-five burials in this lot.

In March, 1878, the Bethel lost a valued friend in the death of Mr. John Gates. He had served the Bethel for fourteen years as a member of the Board and also as its president and treasurer. He was extremely generous with both time and money; his loss was great but the influence of his life and work lives on.

A request was sent to the Methodist Conference in September, 1878, asking that Mr. Lee be permitted to remain at the Bethel another year and still retain his standing in the Conference. This was granted.

The great Christmas dinner for the Sunday School had become a tradition, so it was decided that the Directors should solicit funds from their friends, and food and dishes from the hotels to provide for this event in 1878. The directors took personal charge of this meal and the program that followed. The attendance was always large, since the school membership was so tremendous. This year the committee con-

sisted of Messrs. Hinkle, Ballauf and Pendleton. The dinner was given in the building on Front Street, and scores of friends of the institution came to participate in it.

In 1880 a heavy blow befell the Bethel in the death of Mr. Philip Hinkle. Perhaps to him, more than to any other single individual, the Bethel owed its very existence, for he labored for it in season and out, giving his personal service freely, collecting money, serving as Sunday School Superintendent, on the Board, and in many other capacities. The Bethel held a great memorial service for him at which three thousand people were present. All who came in contact with him respected his great integrity and appreciated his nobleness of character. He was a true servant of God.

From the reports of 1880 and 1881, it appears that the Bethel was extremely active, increasing its membership and ministering to its members, carrying on the various departments with efficiency. The Toledo bonds which Mr. Sinton had given were reinvested in First Mortgage bonds of the Hamilton and Indianapolis Junction Railway, having twenty-one years to run. The officers in 1881 were C. H. Gould, President; Elliott H. Pendleton, Vice-President; John Gates, Treasurer; Wm. F. Boyd, Secretary. Three thousand copies of the Annual report were published and distributed. At the December meeting the board voted to request a portrait of Mr. Hinkle from his family. A fine oil

painting was presented and hangs on the Bethel wall today.



In 1880 Ohio was again represented in Washington by the election of James A. Garfield to the presidency. He was shot by an assassin the next year and Chester Arthur succeeded him. The Civil Service Reform Act was passed; the Northern Pacific Railroad was completed; the French undertook to build the Panama Canal. By 1880 the machine tool industry in Cincinnati was well under way; the river packets, although declining in number, were floating palaces with luxurious furnishings and fine food; the population of the city had risen to 253,139. Chas. West offered \$150,000 to build the Art Museum. M. E. Ingalls gave a dinner to fifty-three friends at \$1,000.00 per plate and \$53,000 was added to the fund. It is interesting to note that in 1882 Mr. Sinton installed a smoke consumer in the Bethel building. He early foresaw the need of civic cleanliness as an aid to civic beauty. A company was formed to light the city with electricity, the event was celebrated by a great dinner given in Music Hall, attended by three thousand people. The days of river travel were dying as railroads were stretching out everywhere. In 1883 the river overflowed its banks and rose to a height of seventy feet, hundreds of homeless people sought public relief; the city, by a loan, raised \$100,000.00 to meet this emergency, and a generous public

added \$95,680 additional, Madam Sembrich gave a benefit concert in Music Hall that netted \$6,170.00 for the emergency.

On April 4th, 1880, the 50th anniversary celebration took place in the Bethel building and a vast audience of more than four thousand people were present. The addresses were given by Reverend David H. Moore, President of Wesleyan College, and the Reverend David Walk, pastor of the Central Christian Church. Quoting from Doctor Moore, "second to no similar institution in the world is our Union Bethel. David Sinton knows how many dollars were embraced in his wonderful gift to the Bethel, but not until the Judgment Day will he be able to measure the good accomplished of which, under God, he has been instrumental." The meeting closed with an announcement by Mr. Pendleton that A. D. Bullock, Louis Ballauf, John Gates and William F. Boyd had been unanimously elected to serve as directors for three years.

In 1882 the School of Domestic Life and Manners was discontinued for lack of funds. The report of this year says "the high prices that prevail for general supplies have greatly curtailed profits from the Merchants' dining room. We have, however, given away 4,158 meals, 1,853 lodgings and 5,165 loaves of bread. The total attendance at the Sunday School was 104,970. The weekly average 2,166. The Ladies' Aid redeemed 76,903 tickets in clothing. A system had prevailed for years whereby a Sunday

School child was given an attendance ticket, redeemable in shoes and clothing when he had accumulated a sufficient number.

There are no printed reports for 1883 or 1884, but from the meager secretary's reports for those years it seems that no changes of importance occurred. The records show the routine board meetings with treasurer's reports in writing, but the superintendent and committees evidently gave verbal reports of which there are no records. Mr. Lee continued as superintendent.

The annual report for 1885 gives the Board of directors, as follows: President, C. H. Gould; Vice-President, Louis Ballauf; Treasurer, John Gates; Secretary, Wm. F. Boyd; M. M. White, L. E. Stevens, A. D. Bullock, George H. Gibson, E. H. Pendleton, Doctor Jonathon Taft, George Tait and Thornton M. Hinkle. The departments of the work continued to go forward; the Sunday School, Young Men's Reading, Dining and Lodging rooms, News Boys' Home, Relief Department and Home and Steamboat visitation. The average weekly attendance at the Sunday School was 2,003. Many extra religious meetings were held, being conducted by Lane Seminary students and a missionary from the Second Presbyterian Church. Miss Lillard, a volunteer, gave much time to home visitation. Seventy-two new members were added to the church. The Ladies Aid Society redeemed 77,491 Sunday School attendance tickets, with shoes and cloth-

ing. The total receipts from the Lodging and Dining Department were \$7,671.06. The Y.W.C.A. held a mothers' meeting every Saturday afternoon in Hinkle Hall in the Front Street building. The Ladies Aid had the following officers: President, Mrs. C. S. Weatherly; Vice-President, Mrs. George W. Harper; Secretary, Miss Flora Wood; Treasurer, Mrs. W. H. Stewart. The principal address at the Annual Meeting was made by Bishop Cranston of the Methodist Church. At this time there were two hundred and eighty-three Life Members, each of whom subscribed \$50.00 or more, annually, to the Bethel work.



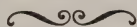
In 1883 the Brooklyn Bridge was opened; an Interstate Commerce Commission was appointed; the Bartholdi Statue of Liberty was unveiled on Bedloe's Island.

In 1884, for the first time since the War between the States, the Democrats won the presidential election with Grover Cleveland as the candidate. Some campaign literature said "he will pay little attention to politics and much to carrying on the affairs of state as a big business should be run."

1886 saw Chinese immigration restricted; the great Hay Market riots occurred in Chicago.

The 1880's were unhappy years for Cincinnati. Public benefactions almost ceased, the arts languished and corruption spread through the city government. The 1884 election was pre-

ceded by fights and riots. There was laxity and corruption in the courts and during a riot the Court House was fired; state troops had to be called out to quell the mob. The city entered upon a shameful period of bossism. Cincinnati was not the only city that suffered a moral collapse. But in those same years the Art Academy was completed; in 1889 a great fund of over a million dollars was subscribed by public spirited citizens for a grand Centennial Exposition, making use of the old canal as a setting for a street scene in Venice with red sashed gondoliers guiding real gondolas; three thousand Bethel children attended the Fair as the guests of Blakemore and Kenny. Christ Hospital, destined to become a noble institution of mercy through the generosity of the fine Gamble family, was opened in a house on John Street; the new Federal building was completed in 1885, having been eleven years under construction; the Chamber of Commerce bought the old building at 4th and Vine Streets.



In Mr. Lee's report dated Mar. 3, 1886, he says: "In an established, well ordered work like ours there is little that is new or especially striking from year to year, religious services are held regularly, the sick visited, the dead buried, the needy helped, the hungry fed, the stranger sheltered. There has been no change in the departments nor in the methods employed. The average attendance in the Sunday School was 1,556,

total collection for the year \$123.00 [either the people were very poor or the staff very poor collectors]. The News Boys' Home is operating satisfactorily; for ten cents a dinner is served — soup, roast, three vegetables, bread and butter, pie or pudding. In the Merchants' dining room a full dinner is served for twenty cents." At these prices no deficit was reported. The year 1887 seemed to pass uneventfully.

In 1889 the work took an upward swing as regards numbers, the Sunday School averaging 2,663 weekly; the church membership grew to 950 members, and a Christian Endeavor Society was organized. Miss Jennie Flake was employed as a young people's worker and also took charge of the home visitation. The Annual Meeting was largely attended, with the membership, interested friends, and contributors gathered together to hear reports and addresses by outstanding ministers. 1890 saw the Bethel prospering, still under the efficient leadership of Mr. Lee. But 1891 was a sad one for the Bethel, for in this year its great director, Reverend Thomas Lee, died on March 10th. His body lay in state in the Bethel Chapel and was visited by thousands whom he had helped and those who had known him as a fine leader. He had served the Bethel and the community for twenty-six fruitful years. He was a man of tender sympathy, unbending integrity, great Christian faith and a tireless worker. A part of the resolution passed by the Board at this time says "he was

a wise councillor, discreet in judgment, respected and loved by all who knew him."

Reverend J. A. Markham was selected as his successor and began his duties on June 1st, 1892. The church numbered eight hundred at this time. A Literary Society was organized and also a Training Class for men who were willing to do house to house visiting. Mrs. Markham brought together a group of young women in a King's Daughters Society, among other activities they attended to the refurnishing of the public rooms of the Bethel. Thursday evening lectures were instituted, James Albert Green, "one of America's best lecturers," was the first speaker. His subject was "Views Afoot in Ireland." "He carried his audience along as if by magic." The Ladies Aid reported 62,618 Sunday School attendance tickets redeemed with shoes and clothing.

Julius Fleischmann was elected Mayor in 1890 and served two terms. He was succeeded by E. J. Dempsey. Henry T. Hunt began agitation against the Cox regime. One-half of the carriages and buggies made in the United States were Cincinnati products; in 1892 the Business Men's Club was organized; 1893, City Hall was built.


Grover Cleveland was again in the Presidential chair; the Columbian Exposition opened in Chicago; there was another nation-wide financial panic.

In 1893 the Board of the Bethel again elected Mr. Markham as Superintendent and the following men made up the board: Doctor Jonathon Taft, President; Wm. F. Boyd, Vice-President; T. H. Lee, Secretary; John Gates, Treasurer, with Thornton M. Hinkle, Larz Anderson, S. J. Broadwell, Samuel Lowry, Wm. H. Taylor, H. Thane Miller, James F. Taylor and Louis Manss. In the superintendent's report for this year he says, "Perhaps there is no greater question of importance in our time than that which relates to the relief of the poor. How can we help and not pauperize them? Is it not to the interest of every man who desires the stability of good order and security of property to relieve, as far as possible, the pressing wants of the poor in a judicious way?"

From the beginning, the Bethel has tried to help people help themselves, and has constantly changed its program to meet changing needs. This flexibility has been one reason for its long-continued life and usefulness.


A night school, teaching all the common subjects, was opened in 1893, also a school of cooking, millinery, and sewing for girls and women, meeting evenings and Saturdays. Monthly Sunday School teachers meetings were held in an effort to improve the quality of that instruction. For the annual picnic there were 5,034 tickets given out and the record shows that six hundred gallons of lemonade were consumed. The Christmas party of that

year used one ton of candy, one-half ton of nuts, ten thousand oranges and thirty thousand cakes. The River reached a very low level, so, many boats could not run; hundreds of rivermen were out of employment. The Bethel gave 2,258 free lodgings and 8,289 free meals. The whole city had suffered severely from the financial panic.



1893 was a year of much labor trouble. This year the first gasoline buggy was operated in Springfield, Mass., by J. Frank Duryea; a disastrous Pullman strike occurred, but troops kept trains moving; Eugene V. Debs was jailed and Jacob S. Coxey led an army of two thousand unemployed to Washington in protest against labor conditions; there was much talk of free silver. We were now forty-four states.

The Cincinnati Woman's Club was organized; a new Walnut Hills High School was erected with a gymnasium and an auditorium, a great departure from the traditional school building; a nationally known group of artists, including such men as Barnhorn, Duveneck, Farny, Twachtman and others, were bringing the city fame; there were the Pitmans and the Frys working in wood; Clara and Bertha Baur were adding to the musical renown of the city.



The superintendent's report for 1894 begins "this year has been unusually hard all over the country, owing to the financial panic, the country has suffered greatly, there have been

increased demands on charitable institutions." The Sunday School had a yearly attendance of 70,572. The name of Frank R. Thompson is found frequently in the reports of this period as being exceedingly generous with time and money and service for the Bethel work. "He justly deserves the title Friend of the Poor." Mention is made of "a lot of fine clothing sent by the Needlework Guild." Mrs. Curry, President of the Cincinnati Cycling Club, managed an exhibition of riding and a supper afterwards for the benefit of the Bethel. This netted \$125.00.

In April, 1895, Mr. Markham resigned. The vacancy thus caused was filled temporarily by Mr. Benjamin Frankland and a month later Rev. A. M. Dawson was elected Superintendent. Because of this change no annual statement was made, although the Christmas dinner and entertainment were held; also the large summer picnic was given, through the kind offices of Mr. Thompson, who collected the necessary funds from among his friends. He died in the latter part of this year and the Bethel lost another loyal friend. During this year two lots, numbers 8 and 10 on Sycamore Street were purchased. The plan was to use them as an entrance to the Sunday School rooms, and also to transfer some of the work done on Front Street to these buildings. As far as the records show, this plan was never put into operation. Even at that late date, 1895, the Board seemed to feel that the business

of the city would be carried on below 5th Street, in spite of the fact that business houses and offices were rapidly moving northward away from the river. For six months, after the coming of Mr. Alonzo Dawson, no religious meetings were held, for the smallpox still raged. At the end of this scourge, the Bethel reopened and a choir of one hundred children's voices was reorganized under the direction of Mr. Palmer Hartsough, Director of Music for the public schools. The restaurant remained closed, since its services were no longer needed. Fourth Street restaurants became popular for businessmen; and as there was no longer any revenue from that source, the cheap restaurant had to close also.



In 1896 Ohio had again been honored by the election of William McKinley to the presidency. By 1897 the Klondike gold rush was on. In 1898 we went to war with Spain, Cuba was freed, the Hawaiian Islands were annexed by treaty; Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines were acquired; the President recommended the purchase of the Panama Canal Zone; the Alaskan Boundary dispute was settled. William H. Taft was appointed the first civil Governor of the Philippines. In 1900 McKinley was re-elected only to be assassinated within six months. Theodore Roosevelt became President.

In 1896 the Governor of Ohio appointed a commission to create a safe water supply for

Cincinnati. This commission consisted of Maurice Freiberg, C. M. Holloway, Leopold Markbreit, William B. Melish and August Herrmann. In 1896 a small Cincinnati Public School Board was inaugurated with Dr. J. M. Withrow as Chairman. The Medical College became a department of the University. Clifton was annexed.



The hotel department of the Bethel closed the year before, was reopened in 1896 for lodging. The restaurant was sublet to two women who managed to keep it self-sustaining. A men's league was formed which took charge of the Refuge Mission, meeting four times each week. These gentlemen undertook to stand as brothers to men who were drunkards and petty criminals and who needed a friendly hand to steady them.

The thought had been gradually growing of the dubiousness of the heretofore accepted idea of a cause and effect relationship between irreligion and poverty so there ceased to be the necessary justification for using religion, as such, to decrease poverty or utilizing relief of poverty to advance religion. The report for 1898 stressed the purpose of the Bethel to be "not merely the assistance of the poor and the reinforcement of them to endure poverty and hardship consequent in the process of a social evolution but also to be active in efforts to create a social state in which poverty would disappear and fair opportunity be open to all." This pur-

pose needed the cooperation of all the community, so the Bethel under the leadership of prominent business men held many public meetings where discussions of all problems affecting the entire city were presented. Here all sorts of opinions could be aired.

In his 1898 report Mr. Dawson gives a list of the men who had served the Bethel as superintendent from 1839 to 1898. It is as follows:

Rev. O. S. Powell.....	1839-1843
Rev. R. H. Leonard.....	1843-1847
Rev. H. R. Price.....	1847-1853
Rev. W. W. Wright.....	1853-1854
Rev. Wm. Landgarl.....	1854 for three months
Rev. S. D. Clayton.....	1854-1856
Rev. Wm. Andrews.....	1856-1869
Mr. Benj. Frankland.....	1859-1869
Rev. Thomas Lee.....	1869-1891
Rev. J. A. Markham.....	1891-1894
Mr. Benj. Frankland.....	1894 for six months
Rev. A. M. Dawson.....	1895

From 1896 to 1903 the Bethel seems to have marked time trying to determine on a new and more progressive policy. Old things had passed away, and a new era was dawning. The Board wanted to be sure of its proper attitude toward this in the Bethel's effort to serve the community. By this time Front Street had become largely a warehouse and commission district, the negro population had taken the dwellings that remained. The superintendents of this period seemed conscious of the changes in the

neighborhood but not clear how to meet them or how to guide the organization into new ways of usefulness. The whole idea of benevolence was changing in the mind of the public. The city still had a "Board of Overseers of the Poor," but the time was not too far distant when we would have a city department of Charities and Correction. Then there would come a dignified Department of Public Welfare, indicating the realization that the entire city is a unit for progress, that no neighborhood can be a "slum" and the rest of the city long remain healthy and contented. The city rises or falls together.

What makes a city great and strong?
Not architecture's graceful strength,
Nor factories' extended length,
But men who see the civic wrong,
And give their lives to make it right,
And turn its darkness into light.

Rev. Mr. Dawson continued as Superintendent until 1899, when he was succeeded by Rev. Madison Swadner. During the administration of the former it appears that the work was flagging; he tried to continue along the old lines which had been successful in the past; and did not envision the needs of changing times. He says in his report for 1899 "saloons and gambling houses elbow each other all along Front Street, and the once beautiful Spencer House where wealth and beauty had been entertained and where Grant and Sherman met in

1861 to discuss war plans, has degenerated into a dirty tenement house."

The following year, the Bethel lost one of its greatest friends and benefactors, for David Sinton died. He lived ninety-two zestful years, filled with interest in all things that made for the best civic and cultural growth of the city he loved. The Bethel will forever hold him in grateful remembrance. Little children, young men and women are still the recipients of his loving care and thoughtfulness for others. His great gifts have helped sustain the Bethel through many years. He still lives as a vital force in our community through his noble generosity.

The directors and friends of the Bethel were becoming increasingly aware of the difficulties of continuing work along the old lines and in the old location. Therefore they sought the services of a brilliant young Boston University graduate, Henry M. Wright. He was a keen student of social conditions, having had his thorough college training supplemented by studies in Europe, with special regard for the English method of social service. He came to the Bethel in 1901 and, with his coming, a new era of helpfulness began. He found affairs at the institution chaotic, but soon had plans for many new forms of effort. In his report for 1901 he says that "the attendants at the Bethel come from an area of 19 city blocks; they are so poor that they must walk, consequently night activities

are impracticable. The children and the workers must come together more frequently than just on Sundays, so there can be a greater transmission of personality which is the greatest factor in social and religious work." He was the first superintendent that used the words social work as a part of the mission of the Bethel. Up to this time the great emphasis was on religious activity.

In this year one girls' club and four boys' clubs were organized under capable volunteer leadership. These groups were supplied with games and a small library was opened. One big room was fitted up with a little gymnasium equipment. It soon became too small and through the generosity of a fine gentleman, Mr. Maurice Freiberg, was enlarged and better and more equipment was installed. The sewing school was reopened with capable, practical volunteer teachers, meeting on Saturday mornings. The clothing that had been distributed rather indiscriminately was now given to the sewing school for rehabilitation. A men's club was organized and the room pleasantly fitted up with tables and easy chairs, a gift from Mr. Charles P. Taft and a billiard table from Mr. Julius Fleischmann.

Mr. Wright took up his residence at the Bethel to become a real part of the neighborhood he served. He was the first superintendent to live at the Bethel. Through the generosity of Dr. C. R. Holmes, H. M. Levy, J. Fleischmann, and

a few of their friends, public baths were installed. Judge Wm. H. Lueders presided at the opening of this new department. A public laundry, where the neighborhood women could bring their washing, was instituted a few months later through the generosity of Maurice Freiberg. This year the Bethel co-operated with the Cincinnati Post and sent five hundred children into the country for a healthy, happy vacation during the hottest part of the summer. These brief facts taken from the report of 1901 show a new understanding of the needs of the Bethel people, new ideas of helpfulness and new trends of activity. The Board was wise in accepting these new avenues of help and in urging people to help themselves. There was a realization too, that the river front had lost its pre-eminence in the business life of the city and the definite need to serve rivermen alone, was past. The Sunday School average attendance dropped to 1,218 per Sunday. Buildings along Front Street were being taken over for warehouses and storage purposes, so family dwellings were decreased; some buildings were condemned after each flood; old and outmoded structures were abandoned; new suburbs with better housing and reasonable rent were opened up. Everywhere civic responsibility for health and housing was aroused.

Mr. Wright organized the first free kindergarten in Cincinnati the next year with Miss May Cochnower as the teacher. She formed a

club of the mothers of her thirty little pupils, where family problems could be discussed. The other club work grew, six new groups were formed and presided over by students from Miss Nourse's School, Seventh and College Streets. These groups had to meet in the day time, for the neighborhood was growing progressively worse. The Reading Room was moved from the basement to the street floor, to make it more accessible to people from the street and many current books and magazines were added to its tables.

The Children's Choir had proved popular and had grown to number one hundred and forty voices. It had been under the direction of Mr. Hartsough for six years and had given forty concerts for various churches and clubs, also two in Music Hall. An elocution class of thirty members had been organized and they participated in the concerts the choir gave. Mr. Wright felt that all applicants for free lodging and meals should, if possible, render some service, either at a job in the Bethel, or at the Associated Charities. However, no one in need was ever turned away, even if he could not work. But the reports show a great diminution in the number of such applicants when the work test was enforced. Clothing was only given on recommendation of some member of the staff. The Sunday School attendance tickets were still given away and redeemed in

merchandise. In 1901, 45,103 such tickets were distributed.

In July of 1902, the Board reinvested the endowment that Mr. Sinton had given. The bonds were paying 7% when the Bethel received them but when reinvested the interest rate was reduced to $3\frac{1}{4}\%$.

Early in the year 1903, Mr. Wright accepted a position with the Citizen's Committee as their executive officer. He had written a book on "Bossism in Cincinnati," and as this Citizen's Committee was committed to the overthrow of the spoils system and since Mr. Wright was eminently qualified for the position, he was selected by the committee as Executive Secretary. The Bethel Board asked him to suggest his successor. He recommended James O. White, a friend and fellow student at Boston University. After a conference between the Board and Mr. White, he was elected to head the Bethel work with Mrs. White as his assistant. They took charge of the work on Dec. 6th, 1903.

One of the first things Mr. White accomplished was the discontinuance of the system of giving tickets for Sunday School attendance. He felt that this plan had outgrown its usefulness and that the amount of money spent in that way could be put to a better purpose. He argued that if a family really needed help that an occasional pair of shoes or a yard of cloth was not sufficient; and if the family was not in need, then the shoes or the cloth was unneces-

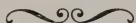
sary. He also felt that the Associated Charities was organized for the relief of the indigent and that it was not a proper service for the Bethel to perform. With the same amount of money spent to redeem the tickets, he proposed to set up a small health center. He secured the volunteer service of two senior medical students who took up their residence at the Bethel, holding two daily clinics, and who were on call throughout the day and night.

The first practicing physician to donate his service was Dr. Wm. Findlay. He continued his connection with the clinic until he went to Shanghai, China, to live. During the same year a trained nurse, Miss M. S. Kingston, from Biddeford, Maine, came to the clinic at a salary of \$50.00 per month, giving her entire time to it. Throughout the year many fine physicians and surgeons gave liberally of their time, holding weekly specialized clinics. For this service a fee of ten cents was charged, this included the medicine as well, for what good was a piece of paper with a prescription on it to a man who was sick and unable to pay for the medicine. The patients were received for more than one treatment only after careful investigation had been made as to their need of free treatment.

A dental clinic was instituted to serve school children, free of charge. At a charge of ten cents adults were also taken if they could not pay for the service of a regular dentist.

A music school was opened with five volun-

teer teachers. The thought was not to produce great musicians, but in a small way to spread appreciation of good music and to advance the sum of human happiness and culture. The children had no instruments at home, so they were assigned certain hours for practice on the Bethel pianos. The Bethel was making a great struggle to help the neighborhood on Front Street keep what good it had, but encroaching physical deterioration made this very difficult.



1903 saw the first successful flight of heavier than air machines. The first radio message was sent. General Leonard Wood inaugurated the first Cuban Republic.

By this time bossism had grown to alarming proportions in Cincinnati; there was indifference to proper provision for the schools; contracts were handed out as political plums; little street repair was done; the prime thought in the Health Department was to keep expenditures low (the amount spent during the year was about \$65,000.00); there were only 550 acres of park area. However in 1902 the Water Works was completed; the future of the Zoo was assured as the street railway secured control of it and built many new buildings and added new animals; the Rookwood Pottery was enlarged; many banks merged and built fine new buildings; Captain Elias Monfort was postmaster; the old Shillito mansion was acquired by the Conservatory of Music. Doctor F. B. Dyer became

the Superintendent of the Public Schools and began immediately to urge a Teachers College for the University. In 1904 the Engineering College was founded by Dean Herman Schneider who gained world renown for the cooperative system of education which he instituted. In 1905 the University opened the College of Education. 1906 saw the free private kindergartens taken into the public school system. Manual training and domestic science became a part of the curriculum.

After the Bethel Health Center was in successful operation, a Day Nursery was opened, made possible by a generous gift from Mrs. Carl L. Nippert and the remainder of the money freed by the discontinuance of the Sunday School tickets. Here children of employed mothers were cared for. Ten cents per day was charged for this service. The Bethel felt that this small charge helped to keep the mother's self respect. The nursery was open six days a week from six in the morning to six at night. It did more for the family than just house and feed the child, for it was not hard for the nursery matron to talk over family problems with the mother, who quickly came to trust the ones who were interested in caring for her baby all day. An evening meeting was held once a week for these mothers, with pleasant and helpful talks and much sociability.

By the end of 1904 it became clear to Mr. White that the Front Street situation was no

longer suitable, nor even possible, for the work. He looked about for another location in the same general neighborhood but with greater possibilities. At this time the building that had housed Miss Ely's private school was for sale. It was situated at 501 and 503 East Third Street. It seemed an ideal location, since it was in a congested neighborhood of workmen's families. To make it more desirable for the Bethel purposes, the buildings directly across the street were to be torn down and a city playground and park were to take their place. The old Lytle homestead was still standing in the center but it was finally removed and the park named for that illustrious family. There Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Taft afterwards erected Barnard's noble statue of Lincoln. Mr. White consulted Mr. and Mrs. Taft about the removal of the Bethel from Front Street into this location, and with characteristic readiness and generosity they determined to buy this property and present it to the Bethel. In the fall of 1905 this was done at a cost of \$17,500.00. After the Third Street property was renovated and equipped the work was moved there from Front Street.

A new vision for Bethel usefulness was outlined and the organization embarked upon a revitalized career of service. Throughout the years Third Street has been touched and colored by four cycles in its development. In the first years the early pioneers and soldiers from Ft. Washington marched over it, for the main

gate of the fort opened on Third Street, in the second cycle, as the small settlement grew into a town, along this street there were built beautiful buildings enclosed by lovely gardens; in the third period about the middle of the 19th century, finance flourished, for banks (sixteen), insurance companies, brokerage houses and mercantile agencies were located on this busy thoroughfare. Here Salmon P. Chase and Rutherford B. Hayes practiced law. The fourth period opened in 1926 with the passing of the Burnet House, and the street was given over to jobbing houses, distributing centers, and manufacturing plants. Now a fifth cycle is seen in the near future when the new city-plan goes into effect. The river front and Third Street will experience a renaissance, and we hope new beauty as well as utility will be achieved for the entire city.

The new location for the Bethel was ideal, and fifteen young men and women, with Mr. and Mrs. White, took up their residence there. Some of these were students at the University of Cincinnati and some were in business but were willing to give their leisure time to the Bethel. A Children's Church was opened patterned after the adult service, with the children taking all the responsibility except for the ten-minute sermon. The Sunday School was conducted in what had been the auditorium of Miss Ely's School. Through the generosity of Mrs. Charles Fleischmann, an assistant teacher was employed in

the kindergarten. For other age groups there were classes in dramatics, music, millinery, cooking, and debating. The health center now had more adequate quarters and more volunteer physicians were added to the staff. In 1906 Mr. and Mrs. Taft enlarged the auditorium by twenty feet on the west side. With this addition the auditorium could seat five hundred people.

The Children's Choir presented a Children's Messiah in numerous churches in the city and before many organizations. The expenses of their transportation were borne by Mr. James N. Gamble. The Men's Club built up an orchestra that played at many Bethel functions. All the time the thought behind these activities was not for the activities per se, good as these might be, but the ultimate object was to make better men and women of the young people who participated in them, to enlarge their outlook on life, to give them real incentive for cultural and spiritual advance. These group activities were only the tools employed towards that end.



The whole basin area reflected changes: banks had moved uptown, although the Lafayette was still operating on Third Street; new suburbs were opening; the Bethel cooperated closely with any new plans or agencies for the good of the neighborhood. Mike Mullen gave annual summer picnics at Coney Island with free lunches and rides for all who would come. The

neighborhood immediately surrounding the Bethel now had a mixed population of Syrians, Greeks, Italians, Arabians, a few Chinese, and our Southern mountaineers.

Mr. White's report for 1906 showed that 3,700 days' care were given in the nursery, 65 children were enrolled in the kindergarten, 2,900 patients were served in the dispensary, 3,700 out-calls were made by doctors and the nurse. Mr. and Mrs. Taft installed a fine modern laundry where all the laundry for the entire institution could be done at a nominal cost. They gave new tile bathrooms for the nursery. A lunch room was set up to serve hot noon meals to the girls employed in the neighborhood factories. The only other place to eat in the neighborhood was the corner saloon. These lunches were so managed that they were no cost to the Bethel. Mr. White became concerned over the lack of proper housing for young out-of-town girls. He made a survey of the rooms available in the Bethel neighborhood and found them to be few and very unsuitable. As a result of his investigation, the Board determined to erect a modern five-story building to accommodate one hundred and twenty girls in single rooms. Mr. White consulted the never-failing friends of the Bethel, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Taft, and in a few days received the following letter:

"Trustees of the Cincinnati Union Bethel,
Gentlemen:

"The splendid progress made by the Cin-

cinnati Union Bethel since the removal of its main work to its present quarters, has increased my confidence in your purposes and undertakings.

"Mrs. Taft has been especially impressed with the splendid management of the Bethel at the present time. When you proposed to establish a working girls' home, she determined to secure the site on the corner of Third and Lytle Streets and deed it to the Union Bethel. Accordingly I enclose a quit-claimed deed duly executed.

"Mrs. Taft joins me in wishing you the greatest prosperity in your new undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

Charles P. Taft

Dated October 19, 1908."

From generous and interested friends Mr. White raised the money required to erect the building. As a small memorial to their generosity, the names of those who gave one hundred dollars or more are recorded below.

William H. Alms

C. A. Ault

L. A. Ault

F. H. Baldwin

Mrs. David Banning

Leland G. Banning

Herman Belmer

J. E. Blaine

W. J. Breed

Sarah W. Bullock

R. A. Cowing

B. S. Cunningham

S. F. Dana

Mrs. W. F. Doepke

Mrs. Mary M. Emery

M. B. Farrin

Alice P. Frances

Mrs. Chas. Fleischmann

Julius Fleischmann

Seth C. Foster

Maurice J. Freiberg	James E. Mooney
D. B. Gamble	C. C. Noyes
James N. Gamble	Mrs. Gussie D. Ogden
Mrs. W. A. Gamble	James P. Orr
John Gates	G. M. Peters
Edwin C. Gibbs	William Cooper Procter
Mrs. Henry Hanna	Amelia Stearns
Louis J. Hauck	George H. Stearns
Emilie Louise Heine	J. G. Schmidlapp
Robert B. Henley	Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Taft
Samuel E. Hilles	Mr. and Mrs.
Mrs. Christian R. Holmes	M. M. White
M. E. Ingalls	F. B. Wiborg
Lackman Family	C. J. Wilson
Harry N. Levy	Asa Van Wormer
D. B. Meacham	C. B. Wright
R. P. Mitchell	

There were many more friends who contributed lesser amounts. Mr. James P. Orr was an invaluable aid to Mr. White in raising this money.

The building was opened and dedicated on Memorial Day, 1909. From the very beginning it has operated on a non-profit basis. The Board was desirous of giving the building a girl's name and thought it most fitting to call it for Mr. and Mrs. Taft's daughter, Anna Louise Taft, now Mrs. William T. Semple. After consultation with Mr. and Mrs. Taft the Board voted unanimously that it should be known as The Anna Louise Inn. Mr. and Mrs. Semple have always maintained an active interest in all the

activities of the Bethel; Mr. Semple is a member of the board, having been elected in 1921.

About this time, Mr. White and a small group of men organized the Newsboys' Protective Association, not as a Bethel activity, but many of its meetings were held there. The Bethel formed a co-operative coal association so that those who had to buy coal by the bucket or bushel could be assured of getting full measure. Two thousand individuals were given some sort of a summer outing; a summer camp was operated on the Little Miami River for twenty girls for two weeks; a school of music was carried on in the summer time with a charge of ten cents per lesson, emphasizing the fact that society does not owe the individual a thing unless he makes a cooperative return according to his ability. Such outstanding young women as Anna Louise Taft (Mrs. William T. Semple), Louise Gibbs (Mrs. Cecil Gamble), Sue Burnet, and many more gave their willing service as teachers.

Mr. Charles Kilgour seeing the need of better equipment in the medical department and being convinced of its value, presented the Bethel with a check for \$2,000.00 and Mr. White secured \$5,000.00 more so that the clinic became one of the best equipped in the city. Mr. Wm. Harvey Anderson built a sun room as an extension to the nursery.

In 1907, Mr. and Mrs. White made a trip to Europe and came home full of enthusiasm for an English venture that was providing adequate

and cheap housing for homeless men. They asked permission of the Board to try a similar plan in the old Front Street building which had been made idle when the work was moved to Third Street, offering to equip it at their own expense and to run it for a year, pledging their year's salary so that if, at the end of the year, it had not been successful the Bethel would be under no financial loss. The Board agreed, and the old building was repainted, new modern plumbing installed, bathrooms enlarged, and a capable man employed as manager. It was a success from the beginning. The charge was ten cents for a bed and five cents for a bath. Thirty-eight thousand, four hundred and four lodgings were provided the first year. As many as five hundred men a night were accommodated.

At the Settlement House a miniature bank was set up, and the children were urged to deposit their pennies. Classes were organized to help children with their night work where parents were not equal to it or too uninterested to do so. Classes were instituted for coaching adults who had started their education late in life. The Board of Education took over the Bethel kindergarten for Guilford School, retaining the Bethel teacher.

The report for 1909 shows the Inn completed and every room occupied. It had one hundred and twenty single rooms, dining room, lounges, laundry, and library. The price schedule was \$2.75 minimum to \$4.75 maximum for a single

room and twenty-one meals per week. A maximum wage of \$12.00 per week was established as the earning limit for residence but the house was filled so quickly and the need was so great that the limit was soon lowered to \$10.00. To the amount of tangible good the Inn has done must be added the great intangible work of prevention. Girls come to the city with full intention of maintaining their high standards but many times the pressure of a big city is overpowering. The protection of the Inn to those girls has been immeasurable. Many of the generous donors to the Inn have passed away but the good they have done lives after them.

In 1910 the Bethel activities advanced all along the line. The lodging house not only proved self-sustaining, but contributed to the general work of the settlement. The doctors and nurse gave sixty thousand treatments. The clubs numbered seventy-five; five thousand visits were made in neighborhood homes. A great children's play festival was given in Lytle Park by the Bethel children, to which large crowds came. Mrs. Charles Fleischmann paid for the services of a band to furnish music.

In 1911 the Bethel acquired a vacation house for girls at New Richmond on the Ohio. It had been especially built for the purpose by Dr. P. V. N. Meyers, a noted professor of history at University of Cincinnati, and had been operated by the University Settlement Association, which had a center on Liberty Street. Because

of lack of financial support the center was closed, and at the request of Dr. Meyers the country house was presented to the Bethel. The frame house accommodated forty girls and there were six acres of ground, mostly hillside. It had a \$2,000.00 mortgage against it but Dr. Meyers generously offered to pay half of that sum. Mr. White secured the remainder, and the mortgage was cancelled. The next summer the Bethel opened the house for summer vacations for employed girls.

The Board of Directors for the year 1908 consisted of:

William F. Boyd	President
Robert S. Fulton	Vice-President
Benjamin Sebastian	Secretary
John Gates	Treasurer
W. H. Anderson	Samuel E. Hilles
Herman Belmer	R. B. Henley
Edwin C. Gibbs	Lewis G. Hopkins
James N. Gamble	Charles P. Taft

This year saw our distinguished fellow-citizen, William Howard Taft in the White House. William Jennings Bryan was still a perennial candidate; Carrie Nation was swinging her hatchet; a postal savings system was set up and parcel post authorized.

In 1908 the Bethel advanced all its work in usefulness. Mr. Charles Kilgour gave the use of a vacant lot for community gardening, the

Bethel presented prizes for the best gardens; twenty-eight boys and girls spent happy hours here. A little later with the help of Mrs. Taft, Julius Fleischmann and Miss Cora M. Dow, an additional lot was secured for the use of adults for vegetable gardening; a story-hour on Saturdays was instituted; the Men's Lodging House on Front Street was filled to capacity at a nightly cost of thirteen and one-quarter cents; forty-four thousand, eight hundred and sixty-three lodgings were given. The Bethel, through its superintendent, was eager to cooperate with any existing organizations that ministered to the welfare of the community and to promote any new needed ones; so in the fall a group of men met to organize a Legal Clinic to be held once a week in the Bethel in order to supply legal advice at a minimum cost. More than two hundred persons availed themselves of this service the first year. Many differences were settled amicably, and friction among neighbors was reduced. The lawyers who conducted this clinic served without compensation. The medical volunteer staff increased to seven men who held regular weekly clinics in addition to the daily ones by the resident doctors. During this year, Mrs. Taft gave three scholarships to the University of Cincinnati to be awarded to young men studying in the department of sociology who would give certain hours in the evenings to the Bethel boys' work.

The Bethel was now able to secure two Uni-

versity of Michigan graduate doctors to take residence at the Bethel and carry on the medical work. This greatly improved the standing of the clinic. The Sunday School was prosperous under the enthusiastic leadership of Mr. C. E. Bennett, business manager of the Times-Star.



In 1910 Cincinnati bonded itself for one million dollars to inaugurate a great plan for municipal beautification and for extended play grounds. A Park Commission was set up. The boulevard through Bloody Run was the first step, then Owls Nest Park was donated by Charles E. Perkins, and Mr. and Mrs. Taft created Sinton Park. The lovely corner park at Madison and Observatory Roads was presented by Lucien Wulsin, and a hundred and fifty acres were given by Mr. L. A. Ault for park purposes. Mt. Storm was purchased in 1911. The city had become conscious of its possibilities.

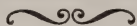


The Bethel lost a valuable friend when William F. Boyd died in June of 1911. He had been an active member of the Board from 1880 to the time of his death, and a Sunday School teacher prior to that. He gave legal advice freely in addition to generous sums of money and other service. The city lost an outstanding citizen.

In 1912 Mr. White was asked by Mayor Henry T. Hunt to take over the superintendency of the House of Refuge as a crisis had arisen there over

management. This was brought before the Board and after much consideration, it was decided to lend Mr. White to the city for a period not to exceed six months. Mrs. White was put in full charge of the Bethel work.

The January report of 1913 records a gift of \$7,500.00 from Frances A. Gates, Alice W. Cramp, Susan M. W. Price and Helen White Eustis to be added to the sum bequeathed the Bethel by their uncle, Francis T. White, and to be kept as a permanent endowment in his memory. All through the years this fine Quaker family has been a loyal supporter and worker for Bethel enterprises. The father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. White, were active almost from the founding of the organization, giving generously of time and money. Their children and grandchildren have followed in the family tradition. Mr. George Eustis is an active member of the present Board of Directors.



The Council of Social Agencies was organized in 1913, and Mr. White was one of its first directors. It was an agency designed to co-ordinate existing charitable organizations and to prevent duplication of effort.



In 1911 the first boat passed through the Fernbank locks; in 1912 Woodrow Wilson was elected the twenty-seventh President of the United States; the Titanic was lost; the Panama Canal was open; the United States seized Vera

Cruz; the Marines landed in Haiti; we intervened in Nicaragua. In 1914, an Austrian archduke was shot and World War I was the result.



In February, 1914, Mr. White was asked to serve as Commissioner of Public Welfare and was granted a six months' leave of absence to serve the city. Mrs. White was elected to serve as superintendent during this period.

1914 was a memorable year in the history of the Bethel, as it celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary. We did not have the information that the Bethel began operations at least nine years earlier than the records then available showed. There was a great evening meeting, in the auditorium, and it was a proud privilege to have, as the speaker, William Howard Taft. No more fitting person could have been found, first because he knew the value and importance of such work as the Bethel performs and secondly, because his family had been so influential in its development. In his address he said "efficient methods of practical social service have been adopted by the Bethel introducing medical, educational, and social service, which help people better themselves by their own efforts. I have talked with Mr. Sinton who declared he was satisfied the Bethel would be run with the same business sense he had used to conduct his own affairs, not pure charity, but a help to people to help themselves."

There was also a brief historical sketch given

by Thornton Hinkle. He paid a special tribute to the life and character of David Sinton and recounted his generosity to the Bethel. He also eulogized another fine friend, Mr. Morris M. White, who, though president of a great bank, head of a large business, and subject to constant demands on his time and talents served as a director and officer of the Bethel, teacher in the Sunday School, and was a constant attendant at its services on Sunday and through the week. His wife was as devoted as her husband. Dr. Owen R. Lovejoy, Secretary of the National Child Labor Association, spoke of the value of such organizations as the Bethel to the general welfare of the city.

Mrs. White reported eleven thousand, two hundred and thirty-two days care for babies in the nursery; four hundred and twenty different girls accommodated at the Inn; rates \$2.75 to \$4.50 for single room and twenty-one meals per week; the Vacation House gave seven hundred and sixteen girls a relaxing vacation; forty-five clubs and classes were held weekly; fourteen thousand, five hundred and sixteen pints of certified milk were given to babies through the generosity of Mrs. Taft in co-operation with the Health Department; the Bible School met every Sunday afternoon; coal and potatoes were bought wholesale and sold to the neighborhood in small quantities at cost; there were fourteen resident workers.

After the addresses and report, a supper was

served at the Anna Louise Inn to the entire company which numbered about five hundred.

The Anna Louise Inn had been operating successfully since 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Taft were so convinced of its usefulness, that in November of 1915 they notified the Board of their intention to present to the Inn three pieces of property, 303, 305, and 307 Pike Street joining the Inn on the east side, so that the facilities of the Inn for the housing of young women, might be extended. The Board then decided to acquire the piece adjoining these lots at the northwest corner of Third and Pike Streets, and known as the Bates property. In December, Mr. and Mrs. Taft offered to pay \$10,000.00 on this purchase. The four lots were secured and Mr. White was directed to raise sufficient funds to erect the new addition, which would house one hundred and fifty more girls, and also provide ample lobbies, dining room, laundry and other facilities.

At the March meeting, 1916, Mr. Taft presented the deed to the corner property to the Inn, and in February of the next year these same generous friends gave the property adjoining the Inn on the north, having frontage on both Pike and Lytle Streets and owned by Michael Mullen. This was to be used as a garden, and gave the building the great advantage of being open on all four sides, Pike Street on the east, Third Street on the south, Lytle Street on the west and the garden on the north; a wonderful situation for a downtown building.

The following generous friends contributed \$1,000.00 or more each to the building fund.

W. H. Anderson	W. A. Julian
Mr. L. A. Ault	B. H. Kroger
Leland G. Banning	R. K. LeBlond
Miss Kate Banning	Harry M. Levy
Herman Belmer	Harry S. Leyman
Charles Boldt	D. B. Meacham
B. W. Campbell	James E. Mooney
Jesse R. Clark	J. P. Orr
E. W. Edwards	Mrs. Clarence Price
Mrs. Mary M. Emery	William Cooper Proctor
Mrs. George D. Eustis	H. G. Pounsford
James N. Gamble	Benjamin Sebastian
Mrs. John Gates	Frank H. Simpson
Fred A. Geier	A. Clifford Shinkle
Miss Mary Hanna	William S. Stearns
John R. Holmes	Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Taft
L. G. Hopkins	Mrs. M. M. White

Many more interested and generous friends contributed smaller amounts.

Mr. White was a fine executive; he had gained the confidence of the public as is shown by the sums of money he raised for Bethel enterprises. He had called to the Board some of the finest men in the city who lent their prestige and influence to the institution. He secured many young men and women as volunteers for the work who gladly followed his inspiring leadership.

In 1915 the Bethel was again the recipient of a generous gift from the Morris M. White

family. In his will, Mr. White had bequeathed the Bethel the sum of \$2,500, as a permanent endowment. His gracious wife and her four daughters, Mrs. John Gates, Mrs. Theodore W. Cramp, Mrs. Clarence Price and Mrs. George D. Eustis, increased the fund to \$25,000.00. The yearly interest on this sum, as well as that coming from the Francis T. White gift, has had a stabilizing influence on the Bethel work throughout the years. In life these two fine gentlemen gave of themselves and their means liberally and the good they have done lives to this day in the lives of others.

In the same year the Bethel acquired the property at 505 East Third Street, again through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Taft and Mr. and Mrs. John Gates. This greatly enlarged the quarters of the medical and club work.

In 1916 Robert Fulton was President of the Board; Lewis G. Hopkins, Vice-President; Benjamin Sebastian, Secretary, and James P. Orr, Treasurer, with the following men serving as Directors:

William H. Anderson
Edwin C. Gibbs
A. Clifford Shinkle
John Gates
Herman Belmer
Robert B. Henley
D. B. Meacham
Samuel E. Hilles

James N. Gamble
John R. Holmes
Charles P. Taft

Mr. White's leave of absence had been extended, so Mrs. White was still acting superintendent. In her report for this year she says: "No longer does one portion of the city feel itself an independent factor, for a new and more righteous vision of a city has been implanted in the public conscience. We know now, of a certainty, that one part of a community cannot be evil, disease ridden, unsanitary, full of dissatisfied people, underfed, underpaid, and isolated; and the remainder be free, happy, prosperous and healthful. If our fair city shall move on and up to its greatest possibility of achievement all must, in some measure, rise together, and it is our firm belief that the Bethel has had a share in promoting greater industrial understanding, improving social conditions, raising the standard of living among its constituents, stimulating a desire for education, offering pleasant and sanitary housing for men, and the wonderful Anna Louise Inn for young business women."

"The way to begin any city you plan
Is down in the primitive heart of man;
The man is the city; as he is, it grows,
As he wills, it conquers, as he knows, it knows;
As he reaps and broadens it blossoms
To the goal of its purpose, the arc of its star.

When you've grown men the pattern that men
ought to grow,
The cities will follow, the cities will flow
In natural selection from the heart of the man
Toward the fine core of the spiritual plan,
Clean, uncorrupted, so Art may step in,
A triumph of grace o'er the prone form of sin.
The way to begin any city's new ways
Is to go back with man to his primitive days,
And as he comes slowly through processes right,
Watch him seek for his city and self, the clear
light,
The high purpose, the unity, law
Round which all our symbols of new living
draw."

Baltimore Sun.

February 11, 1917, was a fateful day for our country — we entered the first world war. Woodrow Wilson was President of the United States. By the next year we had two million men under arms in Europe; we were entering upon a new foreign policy.

The usual activities continued at the Bethel with some changes brought about by the war. The War Relief Committee of New York City desired the services of Mr. White but he declined, as he was in the midst of a money campaign for the Anna Louise Inn and was still serving the city as Commissioner of Public Welfare. By the end of 1917 it became apparent that

all building projects would have to wait the conclusion of the war, so the Inn had to suspend its extension plans.

In October, 1918, the Bethel became a member of the Cincinnati War Chest, later to emerge as the Community Chest. Mr. White was active in its organization.

Mr. C. E. Bennett, advertising manager for the Cincinnati Times-Star, resigned as superintendent of the Sunday School, due to pressure of business. He and his family had been ardent workers for many years, giving unstintingly of their time and talents.

The superintendent's annual report for 1918 ended by saying, "Would that men and women, boys and girls whose bodies have been healed, minds stimulated, souls stirred, burdens lifted, and lives enriched might pass before you in reality, the result of personal effort and funds expended."

Robert A. Taft was elected to membership on the board in 1919.

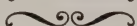
With the war in Europe over, the Board again began to take steps to erect the addition to the Inn. Mr. and Mrs. Taft with their characteristic generosity, added \$25,000.00 to their previous gift, bringing the total to \$128,000.00 given for this enterprise by these loyal friends. In May of 1920 the new addition to the Inn was formally opened although the rooms had been occupied as each floor was completed. For more than twelve years the Inn had proved

itself a helpful factor in the lives of young women who came to the city seeking to earn a living, adding their energy and skill to the industrial life of the community. The rich assets of the Inn are, and have been, in the realm of human character. Who knows how much joy and happiness and goodness have been conserved?

The vacation house at New Richmond was still in operation, but the superintendent reported great transportation difficulties. The carfare had been raised substantially, and finally the interurban service was discontinued entirely. However, at almost the same time, the Bethel received a gift of thirty-three acres of land on the Wooster Pike, between Mariemont and Plainville through the generosity of Lebert H. Weir. In previous years he and his wife had been resident volunteer workers at the Bethel. He expressed a desire that this property should be used as a recreation center for girls. The Board directed Mr. White to raise sufficient funds to erect buildings suitable for a vacation house for employed girls.

By the next year he had raised funds enough to build an attractive log lodge, seven bungalows, and a caretaker's cottage. The place was available for occupancy in 1922. Again Mr. and Mrs. Taft contributed generously to this undertaking to the amount of \$10,000.00. The New Richmond property was sold to the English Lutheran Church for the sum of \$6,000.00, and

this amount went into furnishings for the new house. It was named Glen Vere in honor-of Mr. Weir whose old Dutch name was Vere. Mrs. M. M. White and her three daughters, Mrs. Clarence Price, Mrs. John Gates, and Mrs. George Eustis, without solicitation, added a fine swimming pool, a piano, a suitable and attractive gateway, and a tennis court. Here today hundreds of young women find rest and happiness in this lovely country place.



In 1920 the 19th Amendment became a part of the Constitution of the United States giving women equal suffrage; another Ohioan was president, Warren G. Harding. By 1921 Cincinnati was reaping the result of bossism, the tax rate had been kept so low and the payroll so high that the city had to live on borrowed money. The citizens were aroused, the charter plan was approved, the old machine annihilated, a small council elected and the city started on a new career.



The Bethel added the name of William T. Semple to its Board of Directors in 1921. In October, 1923, the Bethel lost its capable and beloved president, Robert S. Fulton. He had been associated with the organization since 1899. He gave his unflagging zeal and his loyal and loving interest to its work. Mr. Lewis G. Hopkins was elected to fill the position made vacant by his death. The years 1922 and '23 saw

continuous and useful activity in the four departments of the work.

Forty educational classes were carried on; eighty-three thousand, one hundred and three days care were given in the nursery; nineteen thousand, five hundred and ninety-eight medical calls made, seven hundred and twenty music lessons given; four thousand and seven pints of certified milk distributed to babies; two thousand, three hundred and sixteen home visits made; a daily vacation Bible School carried on; fifty-two thousand and nine lodgings given to men; besides outings, plays, lectures and community gatherings. The Anna Louise Inn took care of five hundred and fifty different young women.

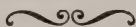
This year the Board decided to discontinue the Sunday School which had been held for so many years on Sunday afternoons. There were several reasons for this, the chief being that there were now sufficient churches in the neighborhood that held morning schools to take care of the children. Then the movies had come with their appeal for the children's time, there were public parks with recreational facilities and band concerts, Coney Island and the river ride made new attractions. An afternoon Sunday School could not withstand these rivals.



In 1924 Calvin Coolidge, who had succeeded to the presidency on the death of President Harding, was re-elected; Hitler was imprisoned

for his Bavarian revolt; Lenin died; the dirigible Los Angeles reached Lakehurst; the first woman governor, Nellie T. Ross, took the gubernatorial chair in Wyoming.

Murray Seasongood was mayor of Cincinnati and Colonel Clarence Sherrill was selected as the first city manager. A new city Charter was written by Robert A. Taft, Henry Bentley, and Robert Gorman, and was adopted. The city acquired the Fleischmann Garden; Lunken Airport was opened and regular air mail service to Chicago inaugurated.



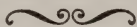
In the published report for 1924 the superintendent says "to feed, clothe and cure a body is a great thing but to energize a spirit is a divine achievement; the Bethel aims to build up both body and soul, to make Christianity practical, so that without dogma or sectarianism, it can demonstrate to all classes of society a real belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man." The report also states that "The Bethel in some matters of civic and educational importance has pointed the way for other agencies, through actual demonstration, such as the establishment of the legal clinic, free kindergarten, milk stations, medical clinics. The Bethel is proud to have been a pioneer in many new fields of helpfulness. It has been a social clearing-house where the common interests of all classes of society have been served.

The next year Mrs. Susan Morris White Price

presented a check for \$4,500.00 to the Bethel to be added to the endowment fund in memory of her uncle Francis T. White.

In February, 1926, the Bethel was saddened by the death of its great leader James Orm White. He had given his whole adult life to the Bethel. He came to it in 1904 after graduating from Boston University, when the organization was in a difficult period of transition, and he energized it by his own vision of its great possibilities for large usefulness. He was a remarkable executive and a fine financier. He could have acquired riches in the business world but he preferred to build up a fortune in loving good will which he bestowed with a prodigal hand upon the people of the Bethel neighborhood and his own circle of friends. He loved the Lord and his fellow men with Irish abandon, never sparing himself when he could serve others. He had the delicate art of transmuting material wealth into the riches of character. The memorial prepared by the Board says: "Mr. White met with many obstacles in his work but proved, by the way he handled his troubles, even more than the way he handled his talents, what God can do with a man of faith." He should have had many more years of usefulness but "we live in deeds not years, in thoughts not breaths, in feelings, not figures on a dial, we count time by heart throbs. He most lives who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best." After all, years are a poor measure of a

man's life; his was rich and full and his deeds live after him; to this day boys and girls, men and women are living happier and better lives because he lived.



In 1927 Charles A. Lindbergh made his epic solo flight from New York, and a few months later visited Cincinnati; 600 U. S. Marines were in Nicaragua; the Chinese civil war was on; talking pictures were being shown, the Jazz Singer being the first production.



Following her husband's death Mrs. White was elected superintendent. The Bethel was the recipient of another generous bequest from Mr. and Mrs. John Gates of \$12,000.00. Also in this year the Bethel received a gift of \$50,000.00 through the will of Mrs. Mary M. Emery, one of Cincinnati's great women interested in all that was for the good of the city. The Bethel lost three valued board members during the year: Mr. Herman Belmer who gave more than thirty years of devoted service, Mr. William K. Ballantyne who had served for three years, and Mr. John Gates whose connection with the Bethel extended over a fifty-year period. These men gave of themselves and their money liberally.

The year 1928 was one of steady growth. The annual report of that year says, "The highest achievement of the Bethel is the most intangible and hardest to report because it consists in those

spiritual qualities that enter into life and not into figures." There were seventeen resident workers only five of whom received a salary from the Bethel, and twenty-eight nonresident volunteer workers. Too much praise cannot be given to those who give their service and time freely to the cause of human welfare. At the November Board meeting Mr. Wm. Harvey Anderson asked the following be spread on the minutes, "I would like to call the attention of the Board to the fact that a little over twenty years ago we were down on the river front, that being our only project. Today we heard the superintendent's report for the Settlement House, Glen Vere Vacation House, the Anna Louise Inn and the Men's Lodging House. She said that more than forty girls from the Inn attend the Symphony concerts regularly (part of the cost being born by Mrs. Taft). The work has been steadily built up under the wise direction of Mr. and Mrs. White." The Superintendent added that this had been accomplished because the institution has a far-seeing Board and many willing contributors and supporters, as well as devoted management.



In 1928 Herbert Hoover was elected President; the Graf Zeppelin with a crew of thirty-eight, and twenty passengers, landed at Lakehurst; the Kellogg-Briand anti-war agreement was signed; sixty-two powers pledged themselves to renounce war as an instrument of

national policy; Commander Richard E. Byrd circled the South Pole in an airplane.

In Cincinnati there were three radio stations; the Fine Arts Institute was formed; the Eighth Street Viaduct built; the Carew Tower begun.

The year 1929 began auspiciously, business seemed flourishing, the stock market was booming, there was full employment; but before it ended the country was in the depth of the most violent financial depression it had ever experienced.



The Bethel sustained a stunning blow in the death of Mr. Charles P. Taft. Who could take his place? He was always interested in any project the Bethel undertook, was ever ready with wise counsel, never dictatorial, always cooperative, broad in his vision, sympathetic with every movement that made for the betterment of the community. The Bethel was indeed bereft. Hundreds of people are still benefiting from his concern for the public good. The influence of such men never dies. The following is a quotation from the memorial prepared by the Board. "He became a director in 1906 and served continuously until the time of his death. A recital of his material gifts represents but a small part of his contribution to the Bethel. He knew intimately the activities of the organization. He visited every department frequently and kept in intimate touch with the

details of the work and often brought his friends and distinguished visitors to see it. He was always available to Mr. and Mrs. White for private consultation, often calling them to his home to talk over intimately Bethel affairs. His gifts were always without condition. All who came in touch with him felt the charm of his personality. It was an unforgettable experience to be numbered among his friends."

The old building on Front Street was no longer deemed fit for occupancy, so negotiations were carried on with the L. B. Harrison Hotel, located at 540 West Seventh Street, with a view to purchase. On May 23, 1930, the transaction was closed and the Bethel became the owner of the property, to be used as a hotel for homeless men. The men from the Lodging House moved in and the building was called The Tavern. It had a fine swimming pool, a gymnasium, plenty of reading rooms, a library and a well-equipped kitchen. The Tavern like the Inn was operated on a cost basis.



Mrs. Taft, first lady of Cincinnati, died in 1931. It is difficult to evaluate her life and influence in the city, all of it was for good. She considered her fortune a trust and she used it as such, giving prodigally to all good causes. In her relationship with the Bethel she carried on the tradition established by her father, David Sinton, never failing in her interest and service. Here is the full memorial drawn up by the

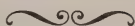
board at the time of her death, and made a part of the permanent records.

"The city, many institutions, and hundreds of individuals feel an irreparable loss in the death of Mrs. Charles Phelps Taft, but none more keenly than the Cincinnati Union Bethel and its superintendent. The radiance of her abundant life will remain forever with those who were privileged to be closely associated with her and the forces for useful good and cultural progress which her loving thoughts and large generosity made possible in this City, will live forever in the lives of hundreds whom she never knew, but who will forever owe her a debt of grateful loyalty.

"All the good that we who benefited from her personality can accomplish is hers too, for she lives in the deeds of men and women who were the direct or indirect recipient of her generous solicitude that all might enjoy an abundance of life.

"The forceful and inspiring, yet unassuming life which she and Mr. Taft lived in this community has been an influence for righteousness that cannot be computed by finite standards. She fulfilled to completeness the obligation that to whom much is given, of him shall much be required. She literally poured out her untiring interest, her finest ability, her wealth, her unwavering loyalty to fine civic enterprises. Our undeniable obligation now is to translate her ideals into actuality."

“February 20th, 1931.”



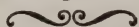
In March of 1931, the Bethel suffered the loss of another good friend and Board member, William Harvey Anderson. He was a fine, cultured gentleman bringing to the Board great wisdom and understanding of the principles for which the organization stood. He interested many of his friends in the work. He served on the Board from 1904 until the day of his death. The following year two more valued and valuable men were taken from the Board by death, James N. Gamble, a prince among men and James P. Orr. Mr. Orr gave himself and his money with a real passion to do good. He was determined that the underprivileged should have a fair chance, as far as his effort could bring it about. He was a never-failing and understanding friend and a wise councillor. It is a matter of pride to the organization that his son, Edward, serves as a member of the Board of the organization that his father loved.



In 1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President and gave his first fireside chat; the Century of Progress was held in Chicago; the N.R.A. came into being; Germany left the League of Nations; the German Reichstag was burned; United States banks took a holiday; the stock market struck bottom; the prohibition experiment ended.

In Cincinnati the lovely Taft Museum was

opened; the Union Terminal and the Western Hills viaduct were completed.



In 1933 an arrangement was made with the Eclectic Medical College to assist in carrying on the Bethel medical work. Five men from the Board were appointed as a committee to carry out these arrangements; they were Messrs. Timothy Goodman, D. B. Meacham, Clifford R. Wright, Morss Lippincott, and Roger K. Rogan. The plan was not completed until the following year. The Cincinnati College of Pharmacy contributed greatly to the efficiency of the work by giving the daily volunteer service of a registered pharmacist to fill the prescriptions ordered by the doctors.

In 1934 another great lady and loyal friend of the Bethel passed away, Mrs. Hannah White, wife of Mr. M. M. White. Her three daughters, Mrs. T. H. Cramp, Mrs. Clarence Price, and Mrs. George D. Eustis, presented a check of \$5,000.00 to the Bethel in her memory, giving a new testimony of their loyal interest in the work to which she had given so much. The Day Nursery was discontinued; and those rooms were used for the children's clinic, since it offered a greater field of service to children.

1935 was an uneventful year with all the work going on day after day in the usual efficient way.

At the 1936 January Board meeting, Mrs. White reported that Mr. Hopkins desired to resign from the Board. He stated in his letter

that advanced age and ill health made this step necessary. His resignation was accepted with great regret, for all the Board knew of his long and loving service. For many years he attended the Sunday School regularly, he seldom missed a Board meeting, was always available for counsel and advice. His fine Christianity made a deep impression on all who knew him. Mr. Roger K. Rogan was elected to succeed him as president, and Mr. Clyde Johnson took Mr. Hopkins' place as Board member, which he filled with loyalty and efficiency until the time of his death. At this time Mr. William T. Semple was Vice-President; Robert A. Taft, Secretary, and A. Clifford Shinkle, Treasurer.

During this year the work moved along smoothly and the medical service was greatly increased. When the next year came, bringing the big flood of 1937, the Bethel was in a position to serve its community with complete medical care for the sicknesses that came as result of the flood.

In 1937 the Bethel entered into an agreement with the City Health Department to supply them with certain rooms at the Settlement House in which to carry on clinics, largely for preventive services and diagnoses. For many years the Health Department had supplied the Bethel with doctors for two or more daily clinics. These were still to be maintained and other services added as opportunity should present.

In the summer there was inaugurated in the

Bethel yard a care center for tiny children for outdoor play and naps. These children were too small to use the Lytle playground where older children were admitted. This was operated by a staff of the Daily Vacation Bible school without any additional cost to the Bethel.

At the November Board meeting the medical report was read by Dr. R. G. DeVoist. A tribute must be paid to this fine gentleman who came to the Bethel directly from the University of Michigan Medical College and remained as a volunteer worker to the time of his death in 1940, giving twenty-five years of generous willing service. No one ever gave of himself more abundantly; he was devoted, self-effacing, capable, with a heart large enough to take in all who needed him. His death was an irreparable loss to the organization. His capable wife is still on the Bethel staff as director of the Settlement House in charge of girls' club work.

In 1938, the Eclectic Medical College closed its doors. This made necessary some basic changes in the Bethel Medical department. Messrs. Rogan, Warrington, Johnson, Wright, and Meacham were appointed a committee to formulate a new program for this part of the work.

Early in the summer a gift of the home of Mrs. George B. Cox, located on Brookline Avenue in Clifton, was offered to the Bethel by Mr. Ben Heidingsfelt following the execution of the will of Mrs. Cox. After thorough discus-

sion by the board and the presentation of a formal examination of the will by Mr. Johnson the gift was accepted. Mrs. White had conferred with the authorities at the University of Cincinnati as to the need of more housing for out-of-town students. It appeared that the Bethel could perform a real service to these girls by using the house as a dormitory. All girls were to be selected by the Dean of Women, on the basis of need. It was to operate under the regulations of the University. The house was put into suitable condition for its new purpose and was ready for occupancy the next October. It accommodated thirty girls. Mrs. Clay Boys was selected as the house-mother.

No funds were available this year for the Daily Vacation Bible School but Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Johnson generously made the school possible. Volunteer teachers were secured through a co-operative arrangement with Miami University.

In December, 1938, the Medical Department Committee called in Dr. Alfred Friedlander, representing the University of Cincinnati, for consultation concerning plans for the clinic. He generously worked out an arrangement so that the Bethel might have the services of Dr. George Lyford as Medical Director, and promised that in the near future the Bethel clinic should have the same association with the University of Cincinnati as the Shoemaker Clinic. An arrangement was made with the Ohio

Valley Druggists Association, the Cincinnati Academy of Pharmacy and the College of Pharmacy whereby the Bethel Pharmacy was staffed by registered pharmacists, they secured valuable contributions of drugs and supplies. Dr. Lyford assembled a staff of twenty-five prominent physicians who gladly gave their service.

The Tavern for homeless men had been operating on a cost basis since 1930 but it was becoming increasingly difficult to do so since the neighborhood was changing into a negro residential district. The Tavern was sold to the William Menke Estate in 1942 as a residence hotel for negroes.



The year 1940 brought a serious loss to the Bethel through the death of two of its fine directors, Mr. George H. Warrington and Mr. Clyde P. Johnson. Both men had given a full measure of loyalty, considered judgment and service, never sparing themselves where the interests of the Bethel were concerned. They had a vision of the good that the Bethel might render and were keen to foster it. Each had his particular contribution to offer and gave it gladly. Their memory is a challenge to those who follow.

In her 1940 annual report Mrs. White said, "For all these years the Bethel has stood as a center where men and women, boys and girls have found health, spiritual uplift, shelter, education and friendship. We pause today to

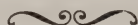
pay tribute to the hundreds of men and women who, through the long years, have given lavishly of their time, talents, service and money that the Bethel might stand in its neighborhood true to the significance of its name 'House of God,' for the tide of humanity that has flowed through its friendly doorway." During this year classes in sewing, cooking, dramatics, music, handcrafts and gym were conducted. In the clinics, fourteen thousand, five hundred and seventy-two treatments were given; six thousand, six hundred and seventy-eight prescriptions filled; one thousand, eight hundred and twenty-two dental treatments; one thousand, four hundred and twenty-two home visits made. The Anna Louise Inn cared for five hundred and thirty-eight different girls, rate \$6.50 to \$8.00 for room and board; the Tavern housed two hundred and fifty-three different men; Glen Vere accommodated nine hundred and sixty-two girls for vacations varying from weekends to two weeks.

At the Annual Meeting held May 8th, 1940, Mr. Morss Lippincott was elected President; Mr. William T. Semple, Vice-President; Mr. Roger K. Rogan, Secretary, and Mr. A. Clifford Shinkle, Treasurer. In November Mr. Charles Williams presented the Bethel with a check for \$800.00 as a memorial to Mr. Clyde Johnson stating that "he is prepared to give a similar amount annually." The Bethel is deeply grateful for his interest and approval of the work it is doing for the neighborhood.

In 1941 the property on Front Street, including the small lot on Sycamore Street, was sold to the Vulcan Copper and Supply Company. This seemed advisable to the Board, since there appeared to be no future use for it for Bethel work. Front Street had seen the rise and fall of a neighborhood dependent on river activity and was no longer used for residence purposes.



December 7, 1941, Japan fired on Pearl Harbor and the United States was at war.



In December, 1941, an assistant was named for Mrs. White. Mr. John R. Powers, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, was elected to this position. He was to assume his duties as soon as he could reasonably be released from his position with the Anti-Tuberculosis League. This was brought about on April 1, 1942. He served in this capacity until July when he entered the Navy on a leave of absence. In the Pacific area he commanded the L.C.I. (L) group 70 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Mr. A. Clifford Shinkle resigned from the Board in October, 1942, because of ill health and continued absence from the city and Mr. Ben Tate was elected to fill the vacancy thus caused. Mr. Edward C. Orr was elected to the treasurership upon Mr. Shinkle's resignation. Because of business pressure, Mr. Harry Leyman resigned from the directorate and Mr. David Forker was elected in his place.

Early in 1943 the Bethel undertook a new service made necessary by the war. Children both of whose parents were employed in defense work were cared for after school hours up to seven in the evening. Dr. Lyford, the Bethel clinic director, passed away in January. He had been of very great service to the institution and it was extremely difficult to fill his place. It was made more difficult by the war, since so many doctors had gone into service and those that were left were too pressed to take on volunteer service. The Health Department of the city assumed the responsibility of continuing the work in the Bethel building. Because of ill health the Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Mr. Charles Upson, and Mr. DeWitt Balch was elected to fill the vacancy thus caused.

In August, 1945, with the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japanese resistance ended. In April, President Roosevelt died and the Vice-President, Harry S. Truman, became President.

Early in May of 1944, Mr. Edward Stokes generously offered a gift of \$5,000.00 to the Bethel to establish a pediatric clinic and its maintenance for one year. Dr. Albert Bell agreed to take charge with an assistant secured through the Health Department. This clinic was formally dedicated May 3rd with Messrs. Lippincott, Greer and Forker representing the Board.

The work moved along through 1945 without any great change. Mr. Powers returned from his overseas service and again resumed his duties at the Bethel. Mrs. White offered her resignation as superintendent and it became effective June 1, 1946. The Board elected her to the Directorate, in recognition of her long service to the organization, the only woman ever to be thus honored.

1946 saw the passing of a valued member of the Board, Mr. Timothy Goodman. He had been outstanding in his usefulness to the Bethel, always taking his duties with seriousness and never refusing any service he could render. His loss was very deeply felt. Mr. Arnold Tietig was elected to fill the vacancy.

In April the Bethel joined the National Health and Welfare Retirement Plan Association to provide for some sort of future security for its employees, since social workers were not included in the Federal plan at this time.

Since the University of Cincinnati had provided a dormitory for women students, Cox Hall no longer served a useful purpose for the Bethel. It was sold to Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity in 1948 and the money from the sale set aside to carry on girls' work, as the will of Mrs. Cox directed.

At the March meeting in 1947 the President of the Board announced, with sorrow, the death of Mr. Roger K. Rogan. A part of the resolution sent to Mrs. Rogan reads as follows: "We will

ever be grateful for the years of unselfish devotion which Mr. Rogan gave to the Bethel as a Board member, as Secretary and as President. His passing leaves a gap in the Board that will be most difficult to fill." Mr. Henry Lyman Greer was elected to fill his unexpired term as secretary.

These pages have given a survey of the recorded work that the Bethel has done during a period of more than one hundred and twenty years. No printed words can pay adequate tribute to the men and women who have gladly served their fellow men and their city through the Bethel with time, service, and money. Below are listed the men who have served as Directors and who richly deserve honorable mention for their unselfish contribution to this organization. Their reward has to be the inner satisfaction that comes from lending a hand in the betterment of those who have great need.

The law of a king is service,
And the kingliest serve the most;
Then ye who are sons of promise
And would royal lineage boast,
Get under the common burden;
Go, help the brotherless sons
And win the royal guerdon,
The thanks of the comforted ones.
For suffering is measureless;
The sorrowing are a host,
The law of a king is service,
And the kingliest serve the most.

Stanley F. Davis.

DIRECTORS FROM 1865 TO 1952

Philip Hinkle	Herman Belmer
John Gates	James N. Gamble
M. M. White	Edwin C. Gibbs
B. Frankland	Sam'l E. Hilles
W. W. Scarborough	Lewis G. Hopkins
E. Johnson	Wm. H. Anderson
W. J. Breed	Charles P. Taft
Mathew Addy	Jesse R. Clark
Wm. H. Taylor	John R. Holmes
John S. Perkins	L. E. Stevens
J. Taft	W. B. Moores
S. S. Davis	A. Erkenbrecher
Ira Haynes	Louis Ballauf
M. B. Hagans	W. F. Church
Edward Sargent	Gideon Burton
Carlos H. Gould	Nicholas Longworth
A. L. Frazer	R. M. White
Larz Anderson	Geo. H. Gibson
A. J. Davis	A. D. Bullock
Charles R. Lewis	Geo. Tait
Sidney D. Maxwell	Wm. Sumner
W. A. Goodman	E. J. Miller
Paris C. Brown	E. H. Pendleton
G. M. Peters	John Gates II
E. R. Montfort	W. F. Boyd
Charles E. McFarlan	Thornton M. Hinkle
J. N. Cole	Samuel Lowry
Glen Taylor	Fred'k. H. Alms
R. S. Fulton	D. G. A. Davenport
R. B. Henley	S. J. Broadwell
Benj. Sebastian	H. Thane Miller

Thomas L. Lee
James F. Taylor
Louis Manss
James P. Orr
D. B. Meacham
A. Clifford Shinkle
Harry S. Leyman
Robert A. Taft
Wm. T. Semple
W. K. Ballantyne
Geo. H. Warrington
Roger K. Rogan
John Dee Wareham
Clifford R. Wright
Timothy Goodman

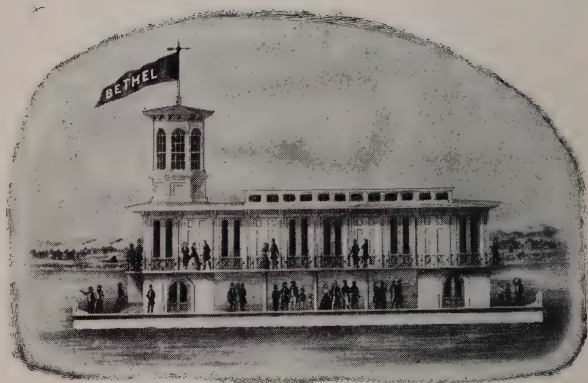
Morss Lippincott
Clyde P. Johnson
Charles H. Burchenal
George Eustis
Henry Lyman Greer
Reuben Holden IV
Edward C. Orr
Charles H. Upson
Ben E. Tate
David Forker, Jr.
Arnold Tietig III
DeWitt W. Balch
John W. Warrington
Mrs. J. O. White
Lloyd B. Taft



FORT WASHINGTON

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on the ground now occupied by St. Louis, Broadway



The Bethel in 1853



The Bethel in 1872 at the Public Landing



Glen Vere Vacation House
Plainville on the Little Miami

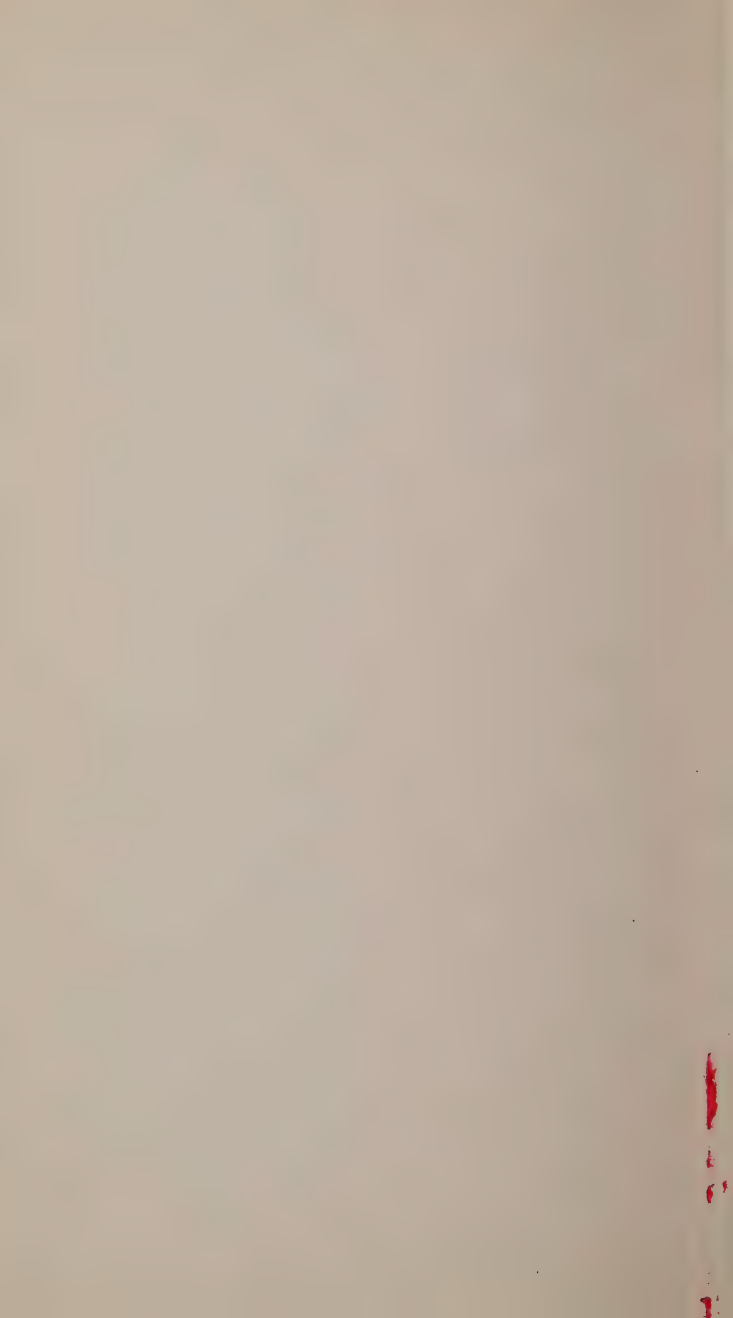


The settlement house today, 501-3-5 East Third Street



The Anna Louise Inn

Anna Louise Inn
300 Lytle Street





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